

The Line

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Connecting supporters and beneficiaries of the American Mathematical Society

FROM THE DESK OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CATHERINE ROBERTS



Hello everyone — all members, donors, and friends of the American Mathematical Society. I'm very pleased to be on board as Executive Director and want to begin by expressing my appreciation for your involvement with the AMS. The Society is robust because of your dedication and support. Thank you for all the aspects in which you participate.

As a Life member of the AMS, I am aware of the many ways in which a strong Society can advance mathematical research and scholarship. The AMS has been a partner throughout my career as a mathematician, benefitting me through the facets of publishing, meetings and conferences, advocacy work, and more. My goal is to strengthen your connection to these valuable programs and services.

As Executive Director, I am committed to ensuring the AMS is working effectively for you.

**“I look forward to
championing your efforts as
mathematics professionals.”**

Keep an eye out for improved information on the many programs and services the AMS offers you during the course of a career. With the Society's Strategic Plan for 2016–2020 we will undertake new action to support the mathematical journeys of women and other underrepresented groups, make improvements and innovations in our publishing endeavors, update our web presence, online tools, and more.

During the coming year I look forward to learning about your successes and challenges and how the AMS can best meet your needs. Please feel free to contact me and the staff at the AMS to share your ideas and suggestions. We are here to be of service!

DONOR PROVIDES GAP FUNDING FOR MATHEMATICS RESEARCH COMMUNITIES



2016 MRC participants at work

AMS Mathematics Research Communities (MRCs) are collaborative networks for early-career scholars based on their topics of study. Participants assemble for one-week summer conferences, collaborate during the year, and organize Special Sessions at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in their research

area. Over 1,000 scholars have benefitted since 2008.

Although the U.S. National Science Foundation provides important grant funding for MRCs, funding gaps exist. Federal monies do not cover all operating expenses nor the full cost of participant travel — a gap particularly significant for international participants.

This year a private donor's gift enabled full participation of eleven international scholars. The donor's generosity means the participants will successfully complete the MRCs and that they, as well as their collaborators, will receive the full benefits of the program.

DONORS HONORED AT AMS HEADQUARTERS

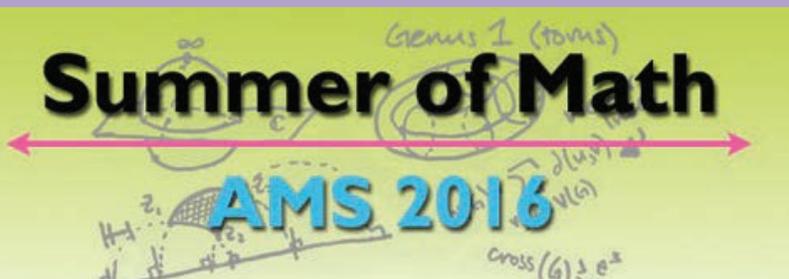
The AMS Donor Wall of Honor celebrates people who have made a gift to the AMS of \$1,000 or more in a calendar year. We are pleased to add the following names for 2015. Thank you as well to the donors who wished to remain anonymous.

2015 AMS Staff
James G. Arthur
Chao Ping Chang
Estate of Richard M. Cohn
Estate of Isidore Fleischer
Estate of Trevor James McMinn
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In memory of Paule by her beloved
mathematician husband
Robert L. Pego
Lance W. and Lynne Barnes Small
George Stell



GREAT #SUMMEROFMATH THANKS TO EPSILON DONORS



Your gift to the Epsilon Fund supported 26 great mathematics programs this summer. To celebrate, the AMS hosted #SummerofMath on social media. Students and instructors shared photos, math problems, and more on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Even the larger mathematics community joined in. See the full array at www.ams.org/summerofmath



f

Paragon of Pointing

What is so exemplary about this diagram?

↑		→		→	
→					

Summer Math Puzzle: On a 2x3 grid, how many ways are there to place arrows, facing up or to the right, so that no arrow points at any other? courtesy Sam Vandervelde, Head of Proof School and instructor at MathPath

about a month ago

Students are deep in thought at Bridge to Enter Advanced Mathematics - BEAM.
#SummerofMath

27 days ago



YoungScholarsProgram students @UChicago using Grundy numbers to solve SuperNim bit.ly/29MITcQ #summerofmath pic.twitter.com/pRwzMQPMPW

about a month ago



Q&A WITH FISKE SOCIETY MEMBER ROBERT J. DAVERMAN



Tom Sato photography

Robert J. Daverman (AMS Secretary 1999-2013) became a member of the Thomas S. Fiske Society when he let us know he made a bequest to the American Mathematical Society. He is professor emeritus at University of Tennessee Knoxville and a renowned expert in the topology of manifolds.

1. What made you decide to include the AMS in your estate plan?

My years as an AMS officer convinced me that the AMS was providing consistent, invaluable support for the mathematics community. When reworking my estate plan a few years ago, making provisions for the AMS was an obvious, almost automatic, step to take.

2. Can you describe an instance early in your career when you benefitted from having an AMS membership?

Sure — AMS sectional meetings, which provided vital research inspiration. When I earned my degree we did not enjoy the rich variety of research meetings so prevalent today, and sectionals helped stimulate my research. Sectionals still offer meaningful, quick bursts of research interaction.

3. You've chosen to direct your bequest to the Area of Greatest Need. What led to this decision?

A desire for flexibility. No telling when the AMS will actually receive the bequest and no telling what the needs will be then. The programs I favor most strongly today may be fully funded then. Therefore,

MATHEMATICAL LIVES – JACQUES NEVEU



Photo courtesy Société Mathématique de France

In 1965 Belgian-born French mathematician Jacques Neveu (1932-2016) was in Berkeley teaching a course in modern probability theory. His time in the United States inspired generous gifts to the AMS. "It is a great pleasure for me to contribute to the remarkable work done by the AMS with the remembrance for all the marvelous contacts I have had with the American mathematical community," he wrote the AMS in 2006.

During his career Neveu was president of Société Mathématique de France, the head of Laboratory of Probability and Random Models (LPMA), and a founder of the Applied and Industrial Mathematics (SMAI) group. His contributions to mathematics will benefit others for years to come.



SMALL AMOUNTS CAN YIELD GREAT THINGS

Sometimes little things make all the difference. Three AMS programs are doing big things for mathematicians by way of some small amounts.

Just 70 donors contributed a majority of the cost of **MathSciNet for Developing Countries (MDC)** in 2015. As part of its mission to promote mathematics scholarship and research around the world, the AMS offers developing countries a deeply discounted or fully sponsored subscription to MathSciNet. Over 40 nations participate, benefitting mathematics scholars and students around the globe.



National University of Laos

Fifty-eight scholars were able to attend the 2016 Joint Mathematics Meetings (JMM) in Seattle after receiving **JMM Child Care Grants** of \$250 to help with their family's child care expenses. The grants can be used to help with costs at home, on-site at the JMM, or as otherwise needed.

Your donations provide these early-career scholars with flexibility to participate in the essential professional events at the JMM. The program is co-sponsored by the AMS and the Mathematical Association of America.

AMS Graduate Student Chapters receive \$500 grants for annual programming as best suits their particular needs. For example, in 2015 the Arizona State University AMS Graduate Student Chapter hosted several events, including a Python programming workshop that involved students from several departments on campus. More than forty chapters are able to generate similar innovative programming across North America thanks to your support.



ASU Grad Student Chapter workshop on Python

AMS INCLUSION INITIATIVE UNDER WAY WITH DIRECTOR GRUNDMAN



Photo courtesy of Bryn Mawr College

Dr. Helen G. Grundman welcomes your input. The inaugural director of the new AMS Education and Diversity Department, Dr. Grundman has been connecting with AMS members as a way to inform the department's initial efforts. As the AMS Strategic Plan for 2016–2020 reflects, the goal for the department is “to promote diversity and inclusion” at all stages of the mathematics pipeline, with an initial focus on “graduate education in the mathematical sciences.”

Dr. Grundman brings over 30 years of award-winning teaching, mentoring, and research experience in the mathematics departments of the University of California, Berkeley, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Bryn Mawr College. She has also worked with a range of organizations striving to diversify mathematics, including the Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM), Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE), and Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS). As AMS President Robert Bryant says, “She will encourage and facilitate full participation of all individuals interested in advancing mathematics.”

In this start-up period, Dr. Grundman's goals include (1) connecting and exchanging ideas with other organizations actively cultivating diversity in mathematics; (2) formulating new programs and initiatives that will advance the AMS mission; and (3) working to make existing AMS programs, activities, and services more inclusive.

AMS members, donors, and friends have long supported inclusionary efforts in the mathematics community. The reaction to the new department has been overwhelmingly positive, and Dr. Grundman is “extremely optimistic that we can make some real progress in diversifying graduate mathematics education.”

DID YOU KNOW? FACTS ABOUT CHARITABLE GIFTS FROM YOUR IRA

If you are 70½ years of age or older, making a donation to the AMS from your Individual Retirement Account:

- **counts** toward your Required Minimum Distribution
- **lowers** your Adjusted Gross Income and thus your other tax calculations and
- **is easily completed** via a check payable to the AMS from your IRA trustee

In 2015 Congress passed permanent allowance for IRA distribution gifts. If you would like to learn more about this giving option, contact Robin Marek in the AMS Development Department.

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AMS News Inside!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF **The Line:**

GREETINGS FROM AMS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

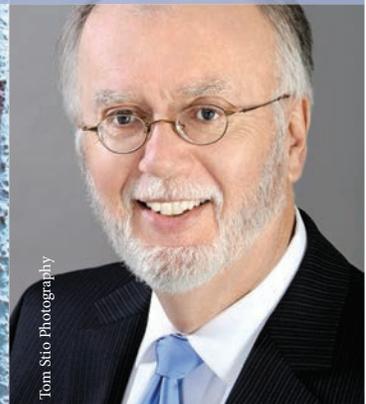


Photo courtesy of BEAM

A GREAT #SUMMEROFMATH!
THANK YOU!



FISKE SOCIETY MEMBER
Q & A



Tom Sio Photography

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