

A QUARTERLY
PUBLICATION TO
INFORM MEMBERS
ABOUT SOCIETY
ACTIVITIES.
THIS ISSUE COVERS
WHAT'S NEW
IN THE PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES
DEPARTMENT
OF THE AMS.

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The AMS Offers Travel Grants for ICM 2002

The AMS will again award travel grants totaling \$260,000 to approximately 130 U.S. mathematicians attending the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) in 2002 in Beijing, China. The grants are funded by the NSF, and a portion will go to recent Ph.D.s. Any mathematician employed at a U.S. institution is welcome to apply.



The quadrennial congress, sponsored by the International Mathematical Union (IMU), provides an opportunity for mathematicians from all over the world to gather and discuss recent developments in almost all fields of mathematics.

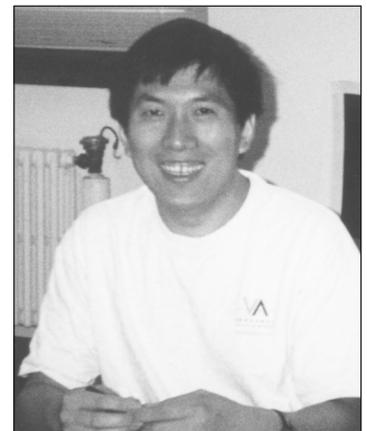
Beijing is an ancient, colorful, and fast-changing city. The Organizing Committee is preparing interesting social and tour programs for the delegates and accompanying persons. The accommodations and meeting site are world class. The Opening Ceremony will be held at the Great Hall of the People, during which the Fields Medals and Nevanlinna Prize will be awarded.

"It's important for the U.S. to be well represented at ICM 2002. These travel funds will make the trip possible for a variety of U.S. mathematicians. I encourage interested mathematicians to apply." Peter W. K. Li, *UC Irvine, Selection Committee Chair*

Read more The deadline for ICM 2002 Travel Grant applications is October 31, 2001. Apply at www.ams.org/careers-edu/icmapp.html.

AMS Collaborates with Duke to Launch Electronic Job Application Service

After a year of testing both an electronic application system (at Duke University) and an electronic coversheet service (at the AMS), the two systems are now combined into the Job Application Database for Mathematicians. This system was developed by Duke Math Department Senior Systems Programmer Yunliang Yu and department chair Richard Hain. Over a dozen math departments and hundreds of job applicants have used this system since last year. We hope that departments hiring for post-doc positions, especially, will utilize the new system. There will be no fees for any services this year.



Dr. Yunliang Yu serves as a consultant on the new system.

The electronic system capabilities include note-taking, rating, email, data-downloading and customizable EOE functions for employers. Reference writers can also submit their letters online. Employers can choose to use any portion of the service.

"Our hiring committee and support staff person used the online system intensively and found it easy to learn. We made extensive use of the ranking and comments options built into the system." Jim Carlson, *Chair, University of Utah*

"This was the first year in some time that we have gotten through the initial phase of the hiring process in a timely fashion and without extensive stress on our manpower resources ..." Roe Goodman, *Acting Chair, Rutgers*

Read more Employers and applicants can get started on the system at www.mathjobs.org.



Employment Center is More Flexible

The Mathematical Sciences Employment Center (formerly known as the Employment Register) will be held at the Joint Mathematics Meetings (JMM) in San Diego, January 6–9. It is co-sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

Employers can set their own schedules in the Interview Center and/or use the more traditional computer scheduling option. Applicants will also notice more flexibility in the system, including a new low price to register without taking part in the computer-scheduled interviews. The Employment Message Center works wonderfully for setting up on-site interviews.

“The AMS can’t predict the ever-changing job market, but our employment services are flexible and accommodating. Our goal is to assist mathematicians and those who employ them,” says Jim Maxwell, Associate Executive Director for Meetings and Professional Services.

Make Note! This January *JMM and Employment Center are taking place Sunday through Wednesday (January 6–9) instead of the usual Wednesday through Saturday of previous JMMs.*

Read more Advance registration deadline is October 26, so register early at www.ams.org/emp-reg/.

Survey News

Results from recent editions of the *Annual Survey of the Mathematical Sciences* suggest several interesting trends. Retirements are definitely up among faculty at four-year institutions, from approximately 1.5 % per year in the mid-1980s to approximately 3.0% per year since 1998. One percent retirement translates into about 150 vacancies among the tenured faculty in mathematics departments.

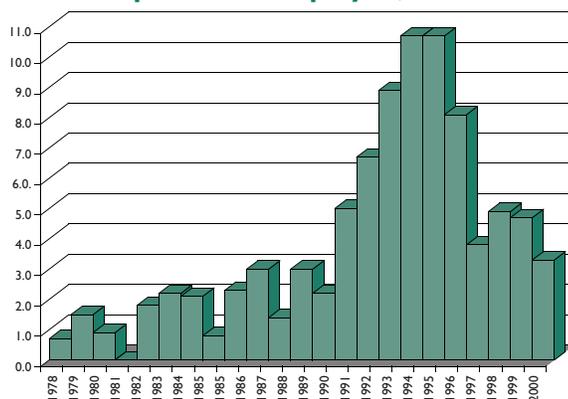
Numbers of graduate students declined steadily in the first half of the 1990s, influenced no doubt by the dire job market facing new Ph.D.s during that period. This decline leveled off in the last half of the decade, and figures just released for 2000-2001 show a solid increase in the number of new and continuing graduate students.

While total undergraduate enrollments in mathematics departments have been relatively steady throughout the 1990s, the numbers of junior/senior mathematics majors have declined over this time by more than ten percent.

The Professional Services Department also provides customized reports of survey information upon request from math department chairs. The most commonly requested report is summary information on salaries in mathematics departments at a set of peer institutions. The AMS is also a respected source for journalists seeking data and analysis about the mathematical sciences profession. In recent months *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and *The Washington Post* contacted Jim Maxwell for data about minority Ph.D.’s in mathematics.

Read more View the most recent survey report in the August issue of *Notices of the AMS* at www.ams.org/notices/200107/200107-toc.html.

Percentage of New Doctoral Recipients Unemployed, 1978-2000



AMS Invites Applications for Math in Moscow Semester

The Independent University of Moscow (IUM), established after the breakup of the Soviet Union, recently approached the AMS to support its semester-long study program (in English) for undergraduates. This is a unique opportunity for intensive mathematical study and research, as well as a chance for U.S. students to experience life in Moscow. The NSF has awarded a 3-year grant to the AMS to support 10 students per year. We encourage faculty to seek out talented undergraduates to apply for this REU-like experience at one of the world's premier mathematics centers.

The IUM was founded in 1991 on the initiative of a group of well-known mathematicians—members of the Russian Academy of Sciences—who now comprise its Academic Council. Professors P. Deligne and R. MacPherson also played crucial roles in the founding of the University, as did the well-known instructor and organizer of mathematical olympiads, N. N. Konstantinov.

Read more For information about the program see www.mccme.ru/mathinmoscow/. Undergraduates may apply for the Math in Moscow Semester scholarship at www.ams.org/careers-edu/mimoscow.html.

AMS Launches Book & Journal Donation Program

Over the years the AMS has received inquiries both from individuals wanting to divest themselves of their (or their relative's) mathematics books and journals and from academic libraries in developing countries that lack funding to acquire high-level books and journals. Now the AMS is pleased to offer a Book and Journal Donation Program that serves to match donors with recipients and provide some shipping subsidies. Academic institutions in many countries, including the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, have a crucial need for research-level publications to support their math research programs. Donation materials of interest are primary research journals and research monographs. Textbooks and the *Notices* and *Bulletin of the AMS* are not candidates for this program. Under this program—funded by the Stroock Family Foundation—the AMS will reimburse donors for the cost of shipping their donation to the receiving institution.

Read more For guidelines on suitable book and journal donations, and to contact the AMS with proposals, see www.ams.org/careers-edu/bookdonation.html.

Ky and Yu-Fen Fan Endowment Facilitates Collaborations

Thanks to the generosity of Ky and Yu-fen Fan, the AMS has embarked on a plan to facilitate collaboration between Chinese and U.S./Canadian researchers. The endowment funds program grants, and all administrative costs are borne by the Society. Presently the program supports travel for U.S. and Canadian-based mathematicians to visit colleagues in China and for Chinese mathematicians to visit institutions in the U.S. and Canada. The endowment may eventually support the purchase of mathematical books and journals by Chinese departments and conferences to be held in China.

Read more Details and program applications will be available on the AMS website at www.ams.org/careers-edu/ when the program is launched in Fall 2001.





Publications for Math Departments

As a service to the mathematical community, the AMS publishes and distributes free of charge: *Towards Excellence: Leading a Doctoral Mathematics Department in the 21st Century*, edited by John Ewing, and *Proceedings of the Conference on Summer Undergraduate Mathematics Research Programs*, edited by Joseph A. Gallian. To receive a free copy, send the book title and a mailing address to prof-serv@ams.org.

Also: The new edition of *Assistantships and Graduate Fellowships, 2001* will be available in the Fall. AMS institutional member departments receive a free copy, and individual members may order a free copy with their early dues renewal. "This directory is a tool for undergraduate mathematics majors seeking information about graduate programs in mathematics. Support for graduate students in mathematics is a high priority of the American Mathematical Society. The book is highly recommended for academic and public libraries."—*American Reference Books Annual*

Read more The Professional Services Department creates and updates web pages to serve the professional community.

www.ams.org/employment: graduate student services, job-seeking resources
www.ams.org/eims: submit ads and search for job postings
www.ams.org/careers-edu: surveys, fellowships, funding, directories, links to articles
www.ams.org/careers-edu/highschool.html: summer programs, math help, contests
www.ams.org/careers-edu/undergrad.html: REU and internship lists, careers, competitions, clubs