

A PUBLICATION TO INFORM MEMBERS ABOUT SOCIETY ACTIVITIES. THIS ISSUE FEATURES SEVERAL LONG-TERM AMS MEMBERS.

Among 18,400 nonstudent members, the median time of AMS membership is an impressive 17 years, with one-quarter having been members for more than 30 years. There are 2,100 individuals who have been members for over 40 years! This special issue is one in a series of occasional newsletters that features some of your long-term AMS member colleagues.

Amy Cohen (Rutgers University; joined the AMS in 1967)



"I have been a member of the AMS ever since my graduate university (Berkeley) nominated me as part of their institutional membership. At first, I had time to write reviews for *Math Reviews*; it was professional service that helped me keep up with my field (nonlinear PDE, later especially those with soliton solutions). My primary focus in the last 15 years or so has been on ways to make university education more effective (and more satisfying!) for students and for faculty."

Cohen developed Project EXCEL, an intensive workshop-based calculus course at Rutgers, and has presented her experiences at MER, the Joint Mathematics Meetings, and in a book, *Changing Cultures: Education and Research Mathematicians*.

"The AMS nominated me to the MAA Committee on the Undergraduate Program; MAA returned the favor by nominating me to the Joint Data Committee. All this professional activity keeps my life interesting and—I hope—productive."

Read more Cohen's home page is at www.math.rutgers.edu/~accl, and the citation for her 1999 Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics Award from the New Jersey Section of MAA is at <http://orion.ramapo.edu/~ldant/distinguished.html>.



Steve Weintraub (Lehigh University; joined the AMS in 1970)

Most of us reserve our own flight tickets to the annual math meetings, but Weintraub, an instrument-rated private pilot, owns a plane that he regularly uses to fly to the joint mathematics meetings. "The trip from Allentown to Phoenix and back in January 2004 is my longest trip to date, and over the years I've flown into O'Hare several times to attend AMS committee meetings."

Weintraub has served on the Council, the Nominating Committee, the Committee on Publications, and the Committee on the Profession (CoProf). As a member of the CoProf in the early 1990s, he recommended that the AMS increase its involvement in public awareness activities. As a result he founded and wrote "What's New in Mathematics," which has evolved into *Math in the Media* and the *Feature Column*.

"I have a high opinion of the Society and have found these opportunities to serve the AMS personally very rewarding. I have mathematical friends and colleagues around the world, and as such, it was natural for me to join the AMS. But beyond the sense of community, I (like just about every other mathematician) have greatly benefited from the Society's publication program, Mathematical Reviews/MathSciNet, meetings and specialized research conferences, its advocacy of mathematics and mathematicians—and I feel it is important to support these by being a member of the Society."

Read more Feature Columns written by Steve Weintraub from February 1997 through January 1999 are posted at www.ams.org/featurecolumn/archive/, and his home page is at www.lehigh.edu/~shw2.

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Wilbur Smith (North Carolina A&T University; joined the AMS in 1968)

Smith is professor and chair of the Mathematics Department at North Carolina A&T University.

He was on the 1995 CBMS (Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences) Survey Committee, involved in planning and executing aspects of the survey. His mathematical interests are real analysis and topology.

“I joined the AMS the year I received my Ph.D. As a young mathematician contemplating a career in academia, I felt that membership in the AMS would provide me with opportunities for many enriching experiences. Indeed, my association with the AMS has been very rewarding. The numerous meetings and other AMS-sponsored activities that I participated in during the past 36 years have contributed greatly to my professional development and have given me opportunities to serve the mathematical community and support some very worthy AMS-sponsored programs.”

Read more See the department home page at www.ncat.edu/~math/home.html and some background about Smith on the Mathematicians of the African Diaspora website at www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/PEEPS/smith_wilbur_1.html.

Richard Randell (University of Iowa; joined the AMS in 1970)

Randell received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. His research interest is differential topology. “Probably like most of us, I joined the AMS in graduate school because of its meetings and publications. Over the years I have come to appreciate its many other services to the mathematical community, such as public relations, governmental relations, and the general support of mathematicians worldwide. The tangible and intangible benefits of a strong society go well beyond journals and conferences.

“Recently I’ve had a chance to serve on the Committee on Meetings and Conferences. This has been a fascinating and rewarding experience, which has greatly increased my appreciation of our society and its staff. To young mathematicians I would say: look for opportunities to be involved with the activities of the AMS.”

Read more Randell’s home page is at www.math.uiowa.edu/~randell/.



Svetlana Katok (Pennsylvania State University; joined the AMS in 1981)

Katok joined the AMS when she was a graduate student. “I believe it is a very good practice

that many mathematics departments sponsor their graduate students’ AMS membership; the University of Maryland did that for me, and there was no question in my mind that I should remain a member after I got my Ph.D.”

She served on the AMS Council and got involved on the Committee on Publications, and when the Society approved the creation of the electronic-only journal, *Electronic Research Announcements of the AMS*, Katok was appointed the managing editor. She continues in that role.

She served on the AMS Short Course Subcommittee (1998–2001) and on the AMS-MAA-SIAM Committee on the Morgan Prize for Outstanding Research in Mathematics by an Undergraduate Student and the NSF Panel on Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (2002–2005), and was invited to give the AWM Emmy Noether Lecture at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in January 2004.

Katok is a co-founder of the MASS (Mathematics Advanced Semesters) program at Penn State for talented undergraduate students and co-authored *MASS Selecta* (AMS, 2003). Her advice to young mathematicians is: “Join the AMS and get involved with your professional society—and you, like me, will find this experience fruitful and rewarding.”

Read more Katok’s home page is at www.math.psu.edu/katok_sl and a short biography is on the AWM website at www.awm-math.org/noetherbrochure/Katok04.html. *Electronic Research Announcements of the AMS* is at www.ams.org/era.

Kenneth Millett (University of California, Santa Barbara; joined the AMS in 1966)

“The joint annual meetings have become my principal occasion to learn firsthand about current research, to keep in touch with early and current colleagues and students, and take part in special sessions concerning efforts to increase participation and success of under-represented groups as well as learn strategies to make our



courses more effective for our majors. The joint annual meetings have become really remarkable events.”

In 1998 Millett was given the AMS Award for Distinguished Public Service for notable accomplishments including “*his work devoted to underrepresented minority students in mathematical science...*”, to which he responded, “In view of all I have gained from my AMS membership, I was truly startled to receive the AMS Award for Distinguished Service. The work for which it was awarded seemed more a private and personal mission than something I imagined would be noticed and appreciated by others.”

Millett notes, “I would urge all who see research as their top professional priority to consider joining the AMS. We are rather few in number and, I feel, benefit greatly from opportunities to get together and learn from each other at AMS-sponsored meetings or workshops.”

Read more The complete citation for Millett’s Distinguished Service Award, along with his response, is in the *Notices of the AMS* (April 1998) at www.ams.org/notices/199804/comm-award-pubserv.pdf.

Sun-Yung Alice Chang (Princeton University; joined the AMS in 1972)



“Back in 1972, when I was a graduate student at UC Berkeley, I was nominated by the mathematics department for a free one-year AMS membership. I have since been a member of the AMS.

I still vividly remember the ‘awe’ I felt sitting in the audience of the colloquium lectures at AMS meetings: It was exciting to be part of the community. Since then I have had many opportunities to participate and to give talks at AMS meetings. I’ve enjoyed these experiences and the chances to meet people in research areas related to, but not exactly in, my own research area.

Chang served on the AMS Council, was a vice president, and served on various AMS committees.

She was awarded the Ruth Lyttle Satter Prize in 1995 “*for her deep contributions to the study of partial differential equations on Riemannian manifolds and in particular for her work on extremal problems in spectral geometry and the compactness of isospectral metrics within a fixed conformal class on a compact 3-manifold.*”

“I’ve also had the great honor to be invited as an hour speaker, and last year as the Colloquium Lecturer at some AMS regional and national meetings. The recognition definitely has brightened and highlighted my career, and I hope my talks have inspired some young colleagues.

“Finally I would like to remark that I feel that the AMS has earnestly encouraged and promoted women mathematicians. As I grow older, I appreciate this aspect of the Society more and more.”

Read more Chang’s home page is at www.math.princeton.edu/~chang/.

Friedrich E.P. Hirzebruch (Max-Planck-Institut für Mathematik, Bonn, Germany; joined the AMS in 1954)



Hirzebruch is one of 2,500 AMS members outside North America who joined 20 or more years ago.

Hirzebruch recalls that he “joined the AMS during the time when I was a member of the Institute for Advanced Study. I wanted to have good contacts with American mathematicians, to participate in meetings and to use the offer of books and journals at reduced prices.” He founded the Max-Planck-Institut für Mathematik to establish a way for colleagues from around the world to make contacts and collaborate and served as its director from 1980 until his retirement in 1995. Hirzebruch was president of the German Mathematical Society, president of the European Mathematical Society (from its foundation in October 1990 through 1994), and honorary president of the 1998 International Congress of Mathematicians in Berlin. He was a professor at the University of Bonn from 1956 until he became an emeritus professor in 1993, has been awarded numerous prizes and honorary doctorates, and is a member of academies throughout Europe and in the U.S. Asked what he would tell young mathematicians about membership in a professional society like the AMS he replied, “I would tell young mathematicians about the good experiences I had with the AMS.”

Read more Read about Hirzebruch and the founding of the Max Planck Institute in “Bonn’s Max Planck Institute: A New Building and a New Era”, by Allyn Jackson, in the *Notices of the AMS* (May 1998), at www.ams.org/notices/199805/planck.pdf.

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AMS MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Happy 100th birthday to G. Baley Price!

Price joined the AMS in 1929 and helped to establish *Mathematical Reviews*. As a member of the Committee on Publicity, he personally distributed copies of the first issue of MR at the annual meeting in December 1939.

Read more "The Founding of Mathematical Reviews", by G. Baley Price, is at www.ams.org/publications/60ann/GBaleyPrice.pdf. Price's papers are in the collections at the University of Kansas (<http://spencer.lib.ku.edu/exhibits/price/>) and the University of Texas at Austin (www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utcah/00205/cah-00205.html).



Photo courtesy of Gloria Prothe,
Department of Mathematics,
University of Kansas.



Peter D. Lax to Receive 2005 Abel Prize

Peter Lax (Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University) will receive the 2005 Abel Prize "for his groundbreaking contributions to the theory and application of partial differential equations and to the computation of their solutions." Lax received the AMS's Steele Prize in 1992, the Wolf Prize in 1987, the National Medal of Science in 1986, and the Chauvenet Prize in 1974. He served as AMS President from 1979 to 1980 and joined the Society in 1945. Congratulations!

Read more The 2005 Abel Prize announcement is at www.abelprisen.no/en/.

Life Membership

An individual may become a Life Member (a newly established category) by making a single payment of dues determined by age. For more information on the benefits, guidelines, and exceptions see www.ams.org/membership/05membdues.html.