

A PUBLICATION TO
INFORM MEMBERS ABOUT
SOCIETY ACTIVITIES. THIS
ISSUE COVERS SOME OF
THE PROGRAMS AND
RECENT ACTIVITIES OF
THE AMS'S WASHINGTON,
D.C. OFFICE.



The AMS Washington office interacts regularly with the broader scientific community in Washington to achieve a visible and effective mathematical presence. Samuel Rankin, AMS Associate Executive Director, and Monica Foulkes, his assistant, represent the AMS, connecting the mathematical community with the decision makers who determine science funding, providing mathematicians with up to date analyses of relevant legislative issues and offering advice on politics and contacts in Washington. Although primarily active in government and federal agency relations, Sam and Monica also work in media relations, education, and outreach.

Keeping Mathematics in the Spotlight

The AMS is a member of the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), a group of over 90 scientific societies, professional organizations, and universities working together to advocate for the support of the National Science Foundation (NSF). As CNSF chair, Sam acts as spokesperson, meeting with members of Congress and staff regarding science policy, organizing collaborative meetings between CNSF members and congressional staff, and sending out alerts via CNSF's very active email list service. Monica maintains the CNSF website and listserv and provides logistical support for CNSF's many activities.

Each year the CNSF organizes a Capitol Hill exhibition showcasing NSF-funded research projects. Sam explains why the event is so important:

"The CNSF exhibition provides a good way for members of Congress and their staffs to meet mathematicians and scientists on an informal basis and to get a better understanding of why research is important for the national interest. These personal interactions help enormously in building support for the NSF."

Among the members of Congress who came to last year's exhibition were Representatives Lois Capps (D-CA), Bob Etheridge (D-NC), Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), Virgil H. Goode (I-VA), Gil Gutknecht (R-MN), Rush Holt (D-NJ), David Price (D-NC), Lynn Rivers (D-MI), NSF Director Rita Colwell, Philippe Tondeur (outgoing director of NSF's Division of Mathematical Sciences), and over one hundred congressional staff members. The 2003 exhibit is June 17.

Each year the Washington office also organizes meetings with AMS and congressional leaders. AMS President David Eisenbud testified on April 9, 2003 before the House Appropriation Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies on behalf of the NSF.



Sam Rankin and Congressman James T. Walsh (R-NY), chair of the House Appropriations Committee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies, and recipient of the 2002 AAS-AMS-APS Public Service Award.



Andrea Bertozzi (Duke University) discusses her research on image inpainting with Congressman Bob Etheridge (NC). Photo courtesy of J. David Sims.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Keeping Mathematics in the Spotlight

Working for Strong Federal Support of the NSF

William Rundell
Appointed Director of NSF's Division of Mathematical Sciences

Supporting the AMS Committee on Science Policy

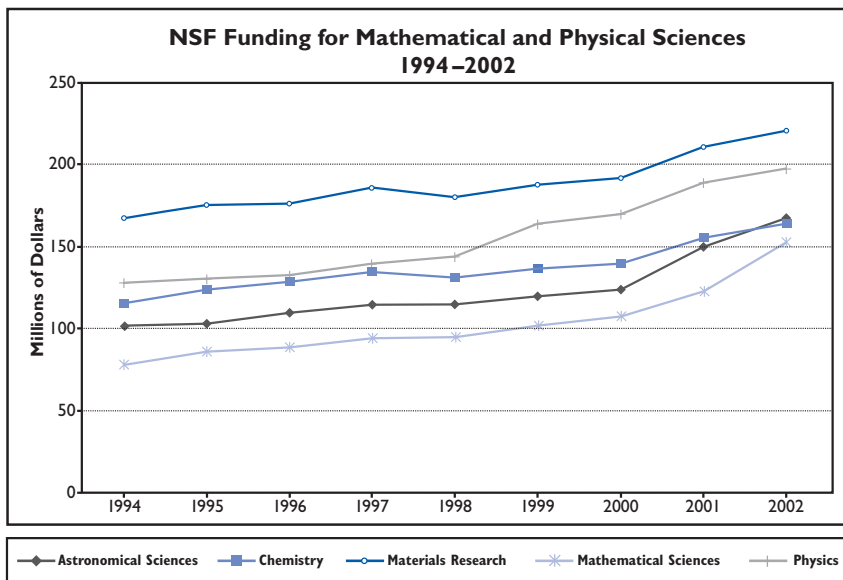
Helping You Communicate with Congress

Cosponsoring the AAS-AMS-APS Public Service Award

Connecting with Mathematics Teachers and Departments

Monica Foulkes Retires

Working for Strong Federal Support of the NSF



In February Congress reached agreement on the FY 2003 budget. Under this agreement the NSF budget will reach \$5.3 billion, an 11% increase over the FY 2002 level. The Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS) will receive \$178.45 million, a 17.7% increase over FY 2002. In announcing the news to the AMS Government Contact Group and the Committee on Science Policy, Sam noted that although this level of funding for the DMS is \$3.42 million less than the President's request, it is well above the level that the Senate Appropriations Committee had approved for the DMS. Sam worked hard to organize a grass roots constituent effort to garner support for a larger increase than was approved by the Senate. Constituents' contacts with their members of Congress on this issue probably had some influence on the final numbers.

Sam is regularly consulted by other Washington science representatives, Hill staff, and science

reporters on issues and bills involving the NSF and other agencies that fund science. Throughout the entire process of budget proposals, stumbling blocks, promises, and compromises, he was often quoted regarding the status of the FY 2003 federal budget.

On the prospects of increased NSF funding as of January, given the weak economic outlook and possible war: People have yet to believe that the administration is committed to increasing science funding. It's sort of like "The cheque's in the mail." (Nature, January 9, 2003)

On Senator Bill Frist's election as Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate: He understands science and knows that the agencies that support research are important. (Science, January 3, 2003)

Sam recently visited congressional offices to advocate for an authorization bill that would increase funding levels for the Department of Energy's Office of Science over the next three years and could lead to increased funding for mathematical research.

Read more "NSF Fiscal Year 2003 Budget Request" is published in the May 2003 issue of *Notices of the AMS* at www.ams.org/notices/200205/comm-nsfbudget.pdf (pp. 566–69). Read about the CNSF's mission and member organizations at www.cnsfweb.org/mission.html.



William Rundell Appointed Director of NSF's Division of Mathematical Sciences

William Rundell was named director of the NSF's Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS) in August 2002. Former department head at Texas A&M University, Rundell has served on many NSF proposal panels, site visit teams, and committees.

Sam reports that "Bill and I talk regularly about the DMS budget prospects and about effective strategies for maximizing the impact of the mathematical sciences. Bill is in contact with the mathematical sciences research community and is knowledgeable about major research accomplishments as well as the needs of mathematical sciences researchers. We are both interested in optimizing federal support for the mathematical sciences."

Read more News related to federal funding and the NSF is posted regularly at www.ams.org/government, and the NSF's DMS maintains a website with news, staff, deadlines for proposals, and more at www.nsf.gov/mps/divisions/dms/.

Supporting the AMS Committee on Science Policy



Hyman Bass, CSP chair (right) with Congressman Vern Ehlers (R-MI)

The Washington office organizes and hosts the annual meetings of the AMS Committee on Science Policy (CSP) and arranges for the committee's speaker at the Joint Mathematics Meetings. This January in Baltimore William Rundell hosted a "town meeting",

where members could hear firsthand from the new DMS director.

Read more The AMS Committee on Science Policy's charge, members, and reports are at www.ams.org/ams/csp-home.html.



Helping You Communicate with Congress

The Washington office offers resources and opportunities for you to contact your congressional representatives on issues related to funding and education:

- The **How to Contact Congress Web Page** (www.ams.org/government/howto.html) has links to your senator and representative, congressional committees, and government websites.
- **Congressional Visits Day (CVD)** is an annual event that brings scientists, mathematicians, and engineers to Washington to convey to their members of Congress the message that federal investment in science is a good and necessary policy. Sam Rankin was a member of the group that started CVD and each spring he invites and sponsors several mathematicians to come to Capitol Hill to participate.
- The **Government Contact Group** consists of mathematicians whom the Washington office calls upon at significant times during the appropriations process to work at the grass roots level. The office sends them email alerts about critical legislative decisions and asks them to contact their members of Congress. If you would like to be involved in this group, email Monica Foulkes at mxf@ams.org.
- Annual **Congressional Luncheon Briefings** on mathematics are hosted by the AMS Washington office. The briefings for members of Congress and their staffs are presented by mathematicians and showcase the mathematics involved in current innovation and technological progress. Congressman Vern Ehlers of Michigan has been a steady supporter, co-hosting and attending each luncheon and often making a short speech. In 2002 Ingrid Daubechies spoke on *Mathematics, Patterns and Homeland Security*. The 2003 congressional luncheon has not been scheduled at press time.
- The AMS Washington office helps mathematicians organize local **Town Meetings** on science and technology—opportunities for information and issue sharing with members of Congress. Town meetings can also be vehicles for establishing an ongoing relationship with a member of Congress. If you would like to organize a town meeting, please contact Sam Rankin, who can help set up the meeting, at smr@ams.org.
- The AMS Washington office can also provide **Biographies of Your Representative/Senator**, with their Washington and district office contact information. Email your fax number and either the name of your legislator or your zip+4 to Monica Foulkes at mxf@ams.org.

Read more For more information on how to communicate with Congress, go to www.ams.org/government/howto.html.

Cosponsoring the AAS-AMS-APS Public Service Award

The AMS, the American Astronomical Society, and the American Physical Society recognize current or former members of Congress or other officials who are committed to federal support of science, mathematics, and engineering and honor them at an annual ceremony. The 2002 recipients were Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), who at the time chaired the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies, and her House counterpart Congressman James T. Walsh (R-NY), chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies. The 2003 recipients were not chosen at press time.

Read more Learn about the AAS-AMS-APS Public Service recipients at www.ams.org/government/pubservaward02.html.

Connecting with Mathematics Teachers and Departments

The Washington office represents the AMS at the annual **Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching (PAESMT)** events. This program, administered by the NSF on behalf of the White House, identifies outstanding science and mathematics teachers and awards a \$7,500 NSF grant to the awardee's school. The AMS Washington office hosts a breakfast for the secondary school teacher award recipients and participates in a short information exchange, where AMS materials are available.

The Washington office organizes an annual **Workshop for Mathematics Department Chairs/Leaders**, held in conjunction with the Joint Mathematics Meetings. These invitational, hands-on workshops, primarily designed for doctorate-granting departments (although other departments have participated), are led by current and former department chairs and deans. Participants share issues, ask questions and seek advice, and present ideas that have worked successfully. An announcement is posted at www.ams.org/government/chrsworkshopannounce.html.

Sam is principal investigator of the NSF-funded **Student Mentoring Workshop for Mathematics Departments** in 2003. The project's goal is to build awareness in the mathematics community that successful programs can enhance student academic experiences, improve student performance, and aid in attracting and retaining students, including underrepresented minorities at the undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral levels. The AMS will then disseminate information about the identified successful practices on the AMS website and in other Society publications.

Sam is also coprincipal investigator on an NSF grant that supports a collaborative project between the AMS and the Mathematicians and Education Reform Forum (MER)—**Excellence in Undergraduate Mathematics: Confronting Diverse Student Interests**. Naomi Fisher of the University of Illinois, Chicago is the project director. This project supports six workshops on enhancing undergraduate mathematics education.

Read more The MER website has more information on the grant and details about each workshop at www.math.uic.edu/MER/pages/.



Monica Foulkes Retires

“The AMS has not known a Washington office without Monica Foulkes,” says Sam Rankin. “She has been here from the very beginning, in 1992, and was instrumental in establishing the initial operation of the office. She has been an invaluable asset to me, the office, and the AMS. It goes without saying that I will miss Monica very much when she retires. We have developed into a great team and, I believe, established a vital D.C. office for the AMS. Monica knows the ins and outs of Washington and how to get things done here. She has been an excellent resource for me and has provided me with the core support necessary to be successful in D.C. I have come to depend on her judgment and savvy.

“Every organization that we deal with regularly has come to recognize Monica’s value. She has often provided them with support as well as timely and critical information. I am sure that these organizations will miss her after she retires—but not nearly as much as I will.”

Monica reflects: “I have worked for the AMS since 1986, beginning with Jim Maxwell and ending with Sam Rankin. I met many mathematicians over the years, dealing with proposals and grants, data surveys, committee support, meetings, and government relations. Like many AMS staff members, I relished the Society’s openness in providing challenges and opportunities for new knowledge and skills (I’m the one who always took committee minutes in Pitman shorthand—who knew I’d end up creating web pages?) and I appreciated the support and consideration given to staff by leaders such as John Ewing. It has been my pleasure and privilege to spend time with this mathematical community, and I shall miss being a part of it.”