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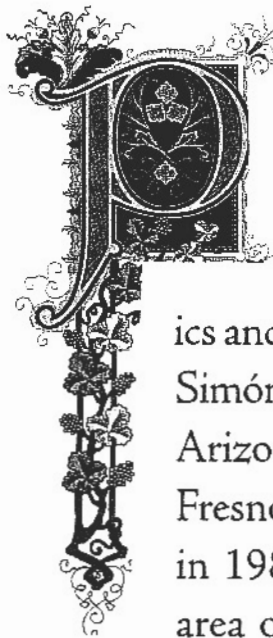
FEBRUARY 22, 2003

In keeping with the resolve of the Mathematical Association of America to take substantive action each year to honor extraordinarily successful teaching at all post-secondary levels, the Northern California Section of the Association is pleased to identify

PETER TANNENBAUM

as the recipient of its MAA Sectional

**AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED COLLEGE OR
UNIVERSITY TEACHING
OF MATHEMATICS**



PETER Tannenbaum received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and has published numerous papers in his field, combinatorics and group theory. After appointments at the Universidad Simón Bolívar in Caracas, Venezuela, and at the University of Arizona, he joined the faculty of California State University, Fresno, in 1983 and was promoted to the rank of professor in 1987. It is for his extraordinary contributions in the area of teaching that we honor him with this Award for Distinguished College and University Teaching of Mathematics.

Professor Tannenbaum is regarded on his own campus as a "truly outstanding teacher of mathematics ... highly regarded by both





students and faculty for his teaching style and contributions to the educational mission of our university ... There is no one individual in our department who has spent as much energy and time in new curriculum development as Peter Tannenbaum."

At his university he has developed (jointly with his wife Sally) an interdisciplinary course based on the 2000 census; received an NSF grant to develop a science learning community, a cluster of integrated courses in science, political science and mathematics, all built around local environmental issues; and fostered the use of ALEKS, an artificial intelligence based web package for assessment and instruction of beginning and intermediate algebra. But Professor Tannenbaum's influence on teaching has gone far beyond the boundaries of his own campus. We can list here only a few: (1) codirecting a California Academic Preparation Initiative project for improving the mathematical preparation of college bound students in local high schools; (2) codirecting an in-service project for middle school teachers (involving new courses — *Exploring Algebra* and *All About Numbers*); (3) conducting several summer workshops for high school teachers on the use of *Mathematica*; and (4) codirecting NSF funded summer institutes for talented high school students. This is but a sample of his various educational projects.

The *Mathematica* workshop inspired the comments "... [it] was fantastic ... it is necessary to change the way we teach mathematics at all levels" and "Wow! Impressive!" "[He] has always led the way in trying to find solutions to the many difficult issues facing the mathematics education community. I wish there were many more mathematicians with his willingness to get involved."

Professor Tannenbaum is indefatigable. Beyond his classroom teaching and organizing and directing programs for precollege students and teachers, he has found time to write a popular liberal arts mathematics textbook with Robert Arnold, *Excursions in Modern Mathematics*, and is currently working on a second, *The Mathematica Companion to High School Mathematics*. He serves on many committees and boards, including the development committee for the College Level Examination Program mathematics test.

Just to top things off, he is fluent in Spanish, Italian, English (of course), and Hungarian!

We are proud to present this year's Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics to Peter Tannenbaum of California State University, Fresno.

