

## 2005 MAA Certificate of Meritorious Service

The MAA Certificate of Meritorious Award was awarded to **Barbara L. Osofsky** at the Prize Session of Joint Mathematics Meetings, 2005, in Atlanta.

The MAA Certificate of Meritorious Service is presented for service at the national level or for service to a Section of the Association. The first such awards were made in 1984. At each January meeting of the Association, honorees from several Sections are recognized.

### Citation

The New Jersey Section is pleased to nominate Barbara L. Osofsky to be the recipient of the 2005 Mathematical Association of America Certificate of Meritorious Service.

Professor Osofsky became a member of the MAA in 1958, while an undergraduate student in Cornell University, and has been a member ever since, becoming a life member in 1986. She received her B.A. and M.A. in mathematics, with a minor in physics, from Cornell and then moved to New Jersey, where she began her teaching career as an instructor at Douglass College of Rutgers University. She completed her Ph.D. in mathematics at Rutgers, and then she spent a year as a member of the Institute for Advanced Study on an NSF postdoctoral program. Barbara has been teaching and doing research in homological algebra at Rutgers University ever since.

Barbara is a member of the MAA, AMS, and AWM. She was active in both the AMS and the MAA early in her career, but later became much more active in the MAA. Her interests and service have been diverse and significant. She has served on and/or chaired a large number of national MAA committees: program committees for national meetings, including chairing the program committee for the last joint summer meetings with the AMS in Seattle 1996, and the program committee for the first MAA MathFest in Atlanta in 1997; editorial committees for the MAA, including chairing the Carus Monograph Editorial Committee for three years early in her career, and now back on that committee; two ad hoc committees to select a Monthly editor; committees to select the Chauvenet and Beckenbach award winners and to select a Hedrick Lecturer; and the Short Course Subcommittee, which she chaired for several years, and helped write a manual for organizers of Short Courses at the winter and summer national meetings and select organizers for the Short Courses. In January 2004, she completed her term as Short Course chair. She has served as the New Jersey Section Governor (1994-97) and as First Vice President of the MAA at the national level (2000-2002).

For her many years of outstanding, dedicated service at both the local and national levels, the New Jersey Section regards Professor Osofsky to be well-deserving of the MAA Award for Meritorious Service.

## **Response**

It is indeed an honor to be the 2004 recipient of the Certificate of Meritorious Service of the Mathematical Association of America. I thank the New Jersey Section for nominating me. I very much appreciate this award, but even more I appreciate the invaluable opportunity I have had to work with so many wonderful, dedicated, creative people in the New Jersey Section and on the national level of the Mathematical Association of America.

Since my undergraduate days at Cornell in the late 1950's, when I began my long association with the MAA by tackling problems in the Monthly section, I have watched the MAA grow and blossom. I later began attending meetings and serving on a variety of MAA committees to do my small part in contributing to this growth. As a result, I became more and more in awe of the many MAA visions of what the undergraduate mathematical experience might be, the insights of our members on how to get there, and the incredibly large amounts of time and effort spent by my MAA colleagues to further the goals of the Association. This has been a source of great pleasure to me, and I am very grateful to have had the chance to work with such dedicated people in our common cause.