

PUTNAM LIST --

Congratulations to Geoffrey Harris of Colorado State who placed in the top 101 of the most recent Putnam Exam.

TOURNAMENTS AND CONTESTS --

There seems to be more mathematics competition than ever before. Over 400,000 junior high school students participated in the first annual MathCounts competition last year, with 200+ taking part in the finals in Washington in May.

The American High School Mathematics Exam (AHSME) was given to 393,000 students in February; 624 of these were invited to participate in the American Invitational Mathematics Exam (AIME). Then 90 of these participated in the USA Mathematical Olympiad on May 1. The eight winners and sixteen other high scorers took part in a three-week training camp at the Naval Academy. Finally, the International Mathematical Olympiad team of six was chosen. This team finished fourth in the IMO in Prague in July. The American IMO coach and USAMO chairman is Murray Klamkin of the University of Alberta. (Whose column, "The Olympiad Corner" appears in CRUX MATHEMATICORUM).

MATHEMATICS AT WORK IN SOCIETY --

Mathematics at Work in Society (MAWIS) is a set of four video cassettes titled "An Actuary - What is That?", "Mathematics: The Language of Research", "Mathematics in Space", and "Mathematics: Where Will I Ever Use It?" produced by MAA and available to members of the Kentucky Section without cost. These cassettes were prepared by the MAA for use with pre-college students to show the importance of mathematics today. In addition, there is a MAWIS project book "Opening Career Doors". If you are interested in using these cassettes, contact Ms. Kay Lamont, The Mathematical Association of America, 1529 Eighteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

GOVERNORS REPORT -- Gary Grefsrud

The Board of Governors of the MAA met on Wednesday, August 14, 1984 in Eugene, Oregon. In addition to routine business, the Board took the following actions:

- (1) Elected Kenneth Ross, University of Oregon, as Secretary of the MAA for the five year term 1985-1990. Professor Ross is currently serving in this capacity until January, 1985, replacing David Roselle, who resigned earlier when he was appointed as Provost at Virginia Tech.
- (2) Approved University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY, as the site for the joint 1985 Summer meetings (Aug. 12-15, 1985). There will be no summer meetings in 1986 because of the International Congress in Berkeley. The MAA has requested that the AMS make a decision with respect to 1987 Summer meetings this Fall (apparently the AMS Council has approved having Summer 1987 meetings). If the AMS decides not to have summer meetings in the future, the MAA will plan for its own summer meetings.

- (3) Accepted a generous contribution of \$20,000 from the Vaughn Foundation to help in refurbishing the Carriage House, which is adjacent to the MAA headquarters building in Washington, D.C.
- (4) Elected Gerald Alexanderson (University of Santa Clara) as Editor of the Mathematics Magazine for 1986-1990.
- (5) Approved, in principle, a MAA Statement on the Retraining of Elementary and Secondary School Teachers from other areas as qualified Mathematics teachers. Joint statements from the MAA and NCTM will be forthcoming and will be sent to State Superintendents of Public Instruction, Directors of Certification and others.
- (6) Met Richard M. Witter, newly hired Development Officer of the MAA. Mr. Witter will work on the Greater MAA Fund, and will help develop a planned giving program for the MAA.
- (7) Learned that the U.S. team placed fourth in the International Mathematical Olympiad held in Prague, Czechoslovakia in early July.
- (8) The Board discussed a report from the MAA Committee on Election Procedures, specifically the method of electing the President-elect. At present, a Nominating Committee, which is appointed by the president, submits a list of at least five candidates to the membership of the MAA. The nominating committee then selects the President-elect from among the three candidates receiving the most votes. The Committee on Election Procedures is considering changing the present procedure to make the President-elect a contested position. A straw vote indicated a majority favored a contested position.
- (9) Heard a report on TEAM's (Teaching Experiential Applied Mathematics) year one production (3 of the 6 learning modules now available) and year two plans. (Bill Ramaley was appointed to be our section's liaison to TEAM).

Professor Les Schrader, University of Wyoming, has agreed to be the American High School Mathematics Examination (AHSME) Coordinator for the state of Wyoming beginning this Fall. Bob Vunovich will continue to be the AHSME Coordinator for Colorado.

NEWS OF JEAN FERRIS -- submitted by Ruth Rebekka Struik

Jean Ferris' many friends and admirers will be interested to know that Jean is now officially "retired." This occurred in the Spring of 1984. However, since then she has been teaching in the Fall semester. The class has been Math 107, a course required for business and some social science students. There have been 1,000 students with multiple-choice, machine-graded tests, hardly an ideal situation for someone who is concerned about individual students and would prefer one-to-one interactions.

Jean is of my generation, the generation of the "feminine mystique." She earned her BA at the University of Colorado (CU) in 1941, with a distributed major: history, mathematics and chemistry. In 1956 she was raising a family when a neighbor, William Briggs of the math department, saw her potential and asked her to teach college algebra. It was the "Sputnik Era." Math teachers were in great demand.

From 1956-65 she was a part-time instructor in our department. She took courses and earned her MA in 1965. From 1965-70 she was employed full-time teaching both upper division and elementary courses.

Then she was asked to become Director of Sewall Hall. This was a program intended to give some students a few of the amenities of a small college. The students have at least one small class and there are opportunities to socialize with faculty.

Jean had been Director of Sewall Hall for two years, when Dean Briggs asked her to become Assistant Dean of Arts and Sciences. There she was until 1979 when she returned to full-time teaching in our department.

In 1972 she received tenure; she was the last person without a Ph.D. to receive tenure in our department. In 1982 she was promoted to Assistant Professor.

Her excellent teaching has been recognized at least twice, in 1967 when she received a distinguished teaching award and in 1974 when she received a teacher recognition award.

How was the department different in the Fifties from what it is today? The department was much smaller then, and there were four "housewives" who taught elementary courses on a part-time basis. As the graduate program grew, these part-time instructors were replaced by graduate students.

The University keeps calling Jean. This Spring (1984) when Rita Weiss was ill, Jean was asked to work in the Dean's Office until Prof. Weiss could return. So for several months Jean has been listening to students entrapped in the University's red tape (or their own immaturity) and doing what she can to help them.

When she is not bailing out the math department by teaching large classes or the Dean's Office when deans become ill, she is enjoying her retirement at her home in Estes Park, a beautiful part of Colorado. Five grandchildren are nearby. In addition to being active in her church, she has taken several trips: in Colorado to Durango and Granby, in Kansas to Manhattan, in Wyoming to Laramie, and to the West Coast.

For those who would like to keep in touch with Jean, her address is:

P.O. Box 1933
Estes Park, CO 80517