



# The MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION of AMERICA

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Gerald L. Alexanderson  
Secretary

5 February 1996

Professor William C. Ramaley  
Secretary, Rocky Mountain Section  
Department of Mathematics  
Fort Lewis College  
Durango, CO 81301

Dear Professor Ramaley:

As you know the Certificate of Meritorious Service is presented to members of the Association for service at the national level or for service to a section. The first such awards were given in August 1984. Each section of the Association is entitled, and encouraged, to nominate one person for this award for service every five years. For this purpose the sections of the Association are separated into five groups with sections making their nominations to the Board each year on a rotating basis. The sections are charged with arrangements for the selection of their nominees. The only restrictions are that the selection committees should have not fewer than three members and previous winners of the Award for Distinguished Service to Mathematics are not eligible for this award. The Board of Governors of the Association must confirm all nominations. In the appropriate year for a given section the committee of the Section designated to select a single nominee should forward through the section secretary the name of the nominee to me by June 20 of the year preceding the awarding of the certificate. The Board would then review these nominations at the August meeting of the Board and if the award is approved the name of the awardee is at that time public knowledge and can be presented to the section and to the public at large. I must caution you that until you hear from me that the Board has approved the nominee, word of this award should not appear in a Section newsletter, for example.

Your section was last invited to nominate an awardee in 1992 so you are now entitled to nominate a recipient for the award in 1997. The award will be made at the January 1997 meeting in San Diego, California.

I would appreciate your arranging to have a committee appointed within your section so that a nomination can be made and communicated to me no later than June 20, 1996. I would need not only the name of your nominee but also a copy of the citation that will be read at the prize session in San Diego. Enclosed are a couple of citations taken from the program for the most recent award ceremony.

I look forward to hearing from you the name of your nominee.

Sincerely yours,

G. L. Alexanderson

GLA:mj  
enc.

cc: Janet Heine Barnett, Section chair  
Celestino G. Mendez, Section governor

## Description and Guidelines

### MAA Certificates of Meritorious Service

The Certificates of Meritorious Service are presented, on the recommendation of Sections of the Association, for service at the national level or for service to a Section of the Association. The Committee that established the Certificates made the following observations: "Past and present governors of a section are of course eligible for the Certificate. However, the award should not be given to an individual simply because of service as a governor. After all, to be elected as governor of a section is itself an honor. It is important to give some recognition to persons who do a great deal of excellent work for a section and who are thereby known widely in that region but not nationally. Nevertheless, how these guidelines are interpreted is left to the discretion of the individual sections. No specific regulations are proposed along these lines."

The certificate is presented with a citation at the January Business Meeting of the Association. The citation should be approximately 300 words in length and should include a short biography and a statement about the recipient's contributions to the MAA.

## Citation

### Robert Bumcrot, Metropolitan New York Section

Robert Bumcrot has a long and distinguished career in the MAA. A member since 1960, he has served as chair of the Metropolitan New York Section from 1977 to 1979, and has served on numerous committees in the Section. He has been a member of the Secondary School Speakers Bureau since 1970 and judges almost every year at the New York City Math Fair. Nationally, he was on the Board of Governors from 1987 to 1990 and has served on many national committees, including those on Minimal Competence in Mathematics, Remediation, Adult Education, and Continuing Education. Since 1985, he has been a Regional Examination Coordinator for the American High School Mathematics Examination. He was a member of the editorial board for *The College Mathematics Journal* from 1987 to 1990, and was on the editorial board for *The Two-Year College Mathematics Reader*, published in 1984. He has been active in the Instructional Resource Center of CUNY, serving on the Board of Editors for their journal, *Mathematics In College*, from 1985 to the present, as well as serving on the program committee for their National Conference on Remediation in Mathematics in 1981. He has also been involved with the AMS, serving as a reviewer for *Mathematical Reviews* from 1965 to the present. At Hofstra University, he has served as department chair from 1969 to 1975 and from 1990 to 1993. Among his many publications are the books *Modern Projective Geometry*, *Matrix Methods in Finite Mathematics*, *Finite Mathematics*, and *Introduction to Discrete Mathematics*. He is currently involved with an NSF project writing a new curriculum for the first two years of college mathematics.

Professor Bumcrot began his teaching career in 1958 as an instructor in an NSF sponsored course on calculus for high-ability high school students, having earned his B.S. and M.S. from the University of Chicago. He went on to earn his Ph.D. in 1962 at the University of Missouri, where he worked in distance geometry under L. M. Blumenthal. He has taught at Ohio State, the University of Sussex and, since 1968, at Hofstra University.

The Metropolitan New York Section of the MAA wishes to honor Professor Robert Bumcrot's many years of dedication to excellence in undergraduate education by granting him the Section's Certificate of Meritorious Service.

## Citation

### Donald W. Bushaw, Pacific Northwest Section

Professor Donald W. Bushaw attended public schools in Bremerton, Washington, graduating from high school in 1943. His undergraduate studies were done at the State College of Washington (now Washington State University). He received his Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1952. His dissertation, under the direction of Solomon Lefschetz, was a pioneering study which opened up the new mathematical discipline of control theory. He returned to Washington State University in 1952, starting as an instructor and steadily climbing the academic ladder to the rank of full professor in 1962. He has taught a wide variety of mathematics courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, but his interest is not limited to mathematics. He taught a course in Eastern Civilization for the Honors Program and participated in graduate seminars in English and Foreign Languages. He has used his extraordinary linguistic abilities to translate a number of books and research articles in a variety of languages, including Russian and Chinese. From 1986 till his retirement in 1993 he served as vice provost for instruction at Washington State. His current title is "senior advisor to the provost."

Don has contributed in many ways to the MAA and the mathematics community, serving as a Visiting Lecturer to both colleges and high schools and on numerous committees and panels on curricular reform at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. From 1970 to 1973, he was a member of the MAA's Board of Governors and was nominated three times for the presidency of the Association. He served on the Board of Editors for *The College Mathematics Journal*, has been a consultant to many colleges and universities, and has been a member of accreditation teams for as many as five institutions. Don has contributed extensively as a referee and reviewer of books, articles and grant proposals. In 1983 he led a delegation on University Mathematics Education to China, and in 1987 he was named honorary member of the Polish Mathematical Society.

Professor Bushaw is widely recognized as an exceptionally gifted writer and speaker. Among his writings are research papers in control theory, differential equations, topology, and mathematical economics as well as many papers dealing with mathematics education, the history of mathematics and mathematical biographies.

The Pacific Northwest Section is honored to recognize Professor Bushaw with the MAA Certificate of Meritorious Service.