

September 2008

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# ACMS NEWSLETTER

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## PLANS FOR THE 2009 JOINT MEETINGS

There will be two ACMS activities during the 2009 joint meetings in Washington D.C. The first is the annual dinner which is scheduled for Tuesday, January 6 at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at one of the conference hotels and will be announced in the official program. Information about ordering tickets will be posted on the ACMS website around November 1. If all goes according to plan, Vern Ehlers, a congressman from Michigan, will be the speaker. Vern is a PhD physicist, a committed Christian, a former physics professor at Calvin College, and someone who is deeply interested in how one's Christian faith affects one's work. His particular passions in the House concern science policy and particularly science education.

The second activity is a new one for ACMS. We will sponsor one of the five New Ventures booths in the exhibit area and are excited about presenting our programs to the mathematical community. Much planning is going into this function, and your involvement is important. We will look to ACMS members to volunteer as hosts for the booth and to represent ACMS in this way. You will receive an email in late November asking for individuals to volunteer their time. We will include an explanation of what your duties will be. Thank you in advance for your willingness to help us.

## PLANS FOR THE 2009 ACMS CONFERENCE

The date and location are set for May 27-30, 2009 at Wheaton College. The main speakers are also set. David Bressoud from Macalester College as the featured speaker will present two talks. James Sellers from Penn State and Jim Bradley will each give an invited address. We hope to have an invited CS speaker as well. What remains to be determined is up to you. Make your plans to attend, and also to

submit an abstract for a paper you would like to present. Watch the ACMS website for new details about the program, and for registration which will begin in late March of 2009. Send abstracts by January 31, 2009 to the conference coordinator, Terry Perciante, at [terry.p@wheaton.edu](mailto:terry.p@wheaton.edu).

The 2009 conference will be preceded by an invited workshop, led by Jim Bradley and Russ Howell, with the task of planning another book project. You may remember that Jim and Russ successfully led a previous project which resulted in the book titled, Mathematics in a Postmodern Age: A Christian Perspective, which was published by William B. Eerdmans in 2001. Let Russ ([howell@westmont.edu](mailto:howell@westmont.edu)) know if you would like further information about this workshop and writing project.

## REPORT FROM THE BOARD

For the first time, the ACMS Board met at a separate time and location from either the joint meetings or the biennial conference. For two days in early June, the Board met on the campus of Trinity Christian College to evaluate the present role of ACMS and to consider some new opportunities for the future. Our president, Ray Rosentrater, wrote a detailed report of this meeting, which is included on a separate sheet in this mailing. Please read it over carefully, ask any questions you have, and consider where you can contribute in the future.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

One good place for your contribution is as a Board member. The next election will take place in the spring of 2009 for a four year term from July 1, 2009 until June 30, 2013. The Board is now accepting recommendations, so please let us know if you would like to serve, or if there is someone else you would like to recommend.

### NEW DIRECTORY AND DUES

If our records show your dues are paid until June 30, 2009, you will receive a copy of the new ACMS directory in this mailing. If you did not receive a copy, this means our records show you are not current with your dues, but may become current by sending a \$30 check, payable to ACMS. Notice also in the President's report what the new dues structure will be after June 30, 2009. A dues statement will be mailed to you in the early fall of 2009.

### GRADUATE SCHOOL INFORMATION

Many of us have been asked by our students for advice about which graduate school to attend, and wished we were better qualified to answer that question. The Board would like to suggest something that could help. We would ask current graduate students, or those who recently attended graduate school to serve as a resource. It would involve their filling out a brief questionnaire on the ACMS website, expressing a willingness to respond to inquiries concerning their experiences in graduate school from our undergraduate students. If you think this is a good idea to implement, please let me know (Robert.L.Brabenec@wheaton.edu) and also send me names, schools, and email addresses of graduate students you know who could be contacted as possible resource individuals.

### SEMINAR OPPORTUNITY

Another enclosure in this package describes an opportunity that may interest some of you. One new program the Board is considering is an ACMS speakers bureau. The program could begin as early as the fall of 2009 if there is enough interest. Read the enclosed sheet describing a proposal from Robert Brabenec to visit your campus for a series of lectures and discussions. Then respond if it is of interest to you. We are also looking for volunteers to be listed on a future speakers bureau, so you could offer your services, or suggest someone else who you think would be a good choice.

### THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Our thanks go to Jim Bradley for his initiative in founding the ACMS Online Journal some years ago and for serving so effectively as its editor. Jim has taken a new position with the John Templeton Foundation as Vice-President for Physical and Mathematical Sciences, and will need to be relieved of his editorial duties. Our best wishes are with Jim as he assumes this new challenge. Chuck Hampton has agreed to serve as the new editor, and we thank him for his willingness to do so. Please send your future submissions to Chuck at hampton@wooster.edu.

Our congratulations are extended to Andy Simoson who received a George Pólya Award at MathFest for his article "Pursuit Curve for the Man in the Moone" in the *College Mathematics Journal*. Andy has published several articles and books over the years and is clearly one of the most prolific writers within ACMS. He also received the 2007 Chauvenet Prize for his book *Hesiod's Anvil* in the MAA Dolciani series.

### IVCF CONFERENCE

One item mentioned in the President's report is the desire to become more closely associated with such organizations as IntersVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) or the American Scientific Affiliation (ASA). IntersVarsity wants to acquaint ACMS members with the Human Flourishing Conference they are offering for graduate students, faculty and professionals. It will be held at the Marriott Magnificent Mile in Chicago during December 27-31, 2008. We include a descriptive brochure of the conference in this mailing.