MATHEMATICS AWARENESS WEEK
April 26 - May 2, 1998

Mathematics Awareness Week (MAW) 1998, to be held April 26 - May 2, is the mathematical science community's opportunity to schedule local events celebrating the excitement, versatality, and importance of mathematics. We invite you to use MAW website to inform your colleagues, your students, and the public about the value of mathematics. The MAW web address is < **http://forum.swarthmore.edu/maw**>.

The MAW 1998 theme is **Mathematics and Imaging**. Mathematics is an essential element of imaging in fields as diverse as medicine, computer science, and space exploration, and many other setting as well. These and other aspects of mathematics in imaging are described briefly below and are explored in greater detail in an article on the MAW website.

Mathematics Awareness Week is an excellent vehicle for **communicating with new audiences** about the relevance of mathematics. Here are some suggestions for MAW activities:

⋆ Design your own World Wide Web page and link it to the national MAW page;

⋆ Explore joint programs with your colleagues in other fields, especially those related to, or dependent on, imaging;

⋆ Ecourage your student chapter to organize campus events;

⋆ Request appropriate state or local officials to issue a proclamation declaring April 26 - May 2, 1998 to be Mathematics Awareness Week in your municipality or state– a sample proclamation can be found on the website;

⋆ Invite your local legislators or other elected officials to visit your department –public officials appreciate opportunities to speak with faculty about their public policy concerns;

⋆ Tailor the **enclosed sample news release** (can be obtained from newsletter editor) so that it includes details on your MAW activities and mail it to your local print and broadcast media outlets–you can find media listing from books in the reference section of your library, or better yet, work with your institution's public informatio office;

⋆ Check the MAW website for an extensive listing of activities and events that others have done in the past to observe MAW;

Any activities or event that spotlights mathematics and its contributions is appropriate for MAW. And if the week of April 26 - May 2 doesn't work for you because of exams, spring break, or other commitments, you may schedule MAW 1998 activities any week in March, April, or May.

Please help us share Mathematics Awareness Week by sending us newspaper clips on mathematical topics appearing in your local papers and community magazines this spring and posting announcements and reports of your MAW activities on the MAW electronic mailing list
<http://forum.swartmore.edu/maw/mawlist.html>.

Allegheny Mountain Section's Fourteen Annual Short Course

Finite Fields-Theory, Applications, and Algorithms is the title of the Allegheney Montain Section's Fourteen Annual Short Course. The course will be held June 15-18 at Alleghney College in Meadville, PA. The presenter is Dr. Gary Mullen, Chair, Department of Mathematics and at the Pennsylvania State University. Registration for the Course is $150 and room and board $ 110. For more information, contact

George Bradley
Duquesene University
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
Pittsburgh, PA 15282
(412) 396-5115
email: bradley@duq3.cc.duq.edu

Tribute to a Colleague

Dr. Theodore J.(Ted) Benac died on Nov. 9 from cancer. Ted earned a Bachelor's degree in chemistry and philosophy from St. Michael's College in Winooski, Vt. a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Connecticut at Stokes, and a doctorate from Yale University. In July 1941 he was appointed an instructor at the United States Naval Academy. He has taught at USNA ever since until 2 weeks before his death without missing a single semester.

He was the chairman of the Mathematics Department for 6 years. He served as the Governor of the Maryland-District of Columbia-Virginia section from 1977 to 1980. In 1990 he was named the Maryland State Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support Education. Other awards he won include the Navy Civilian Service Award, the Navy Meritorious Service Award, and Civilian Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence.

In 1969 he started a new course, "Computer Calculus", which, with modifications, is still taught at the Naval Academy. He is the author of 3 textbooks and translated 5 mathematics books from German to English and wrote abstracts that were published in conference proceedings and in publications of the American Mathematical Society. From 1962 to 1971 he also taught graduate courses in abstract algebra at Catholic University.

Ted is survived by his wife, Virginia Benac of Indianapolis, IN, and a daughter, Susan Benac of Annapolis, and 5 grandchilderen. Memorial Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, Ann Arundel County Unit 810, P.O.Box 4203, Annapolis, MD 21403.

MAA REGIONAL MINICOURSE

MATHEMATICAL FINANCE

10 AM - 4 PM, May 9, 1998 Villanova University, Villanova, PA
(sponsord by the Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware Section of the MAA)

10 AM - 4 PM, June 6, 1998 Towson University, Towson, MD
(sponsord by the Maryland-DC-Virginia Section of the MAA)

Presenters: **Scott Brown** and **Walter Stromquist**
                Daniel H. Wagner, Associates, Maryland, PA

Abstract

The minicourse will cover two main ideas of modern finance: Portfolio optimization and option valuation. Portfolio optimization means allocating a fixed investment fund among instruments (e.g., stocks) in order to maximize return and/or minimize risk; the techniques range from matrix algebra to quadratic programming. Option valuation includes the well-known Black-Scholes formula, which will be derived under naive assumptions and then it will be shown how the modern no-arbitrage theory allows it to apply more generally. The presenters will draw on practical examples from their consulting work.

Registration Fee: Regitration is $ 50 per person ($ 30 for students or unemployed)

How to register: A check for the registration fee should be sent by May 1 (resp June 1) to

> **Jane Heckler**
> **Mathematical Association of America**
> **1529 Eighteen Street, NW**
> **Washington, DC 20036**

Enrollment is limited to 30 participants at each site. Registration on the day of the course will be allowed as space permits.

More information: Direction to the sites and more detailed information are available at
www.math.upenn.edu/ gjporter/maa/finance_mini.html

Scott Brown and Walter Stromquist are both Vice President in the Malvern, Pa office of Daniel H. Wagner, Associates, a mathematical consulting firm.