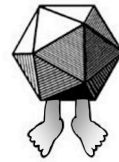


# BIO SIGMAA



March 6, 2008

Dear Colleague,

The MAA's special interest group in mathematical and computational biology (BIO SIGMAA) has recently established an award in honor and memory of our late colleague, Janet L. Andersen.

Until her untimely death in November 2005, Janet Andersen was Professor of mathematics at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. She joined the Hope faculty in 1991 after completing her master's and doctoral work in algebraic geometry at the University of Minnesota.

Janet was a beloved and dedicated teacher of mathematics and served the profession in myriad ways, from her role as director of the Pew MidStates Science and Mathematics Consortium to her service as chair of the MAA's committee on the teaching of undergraduate mathematics.

About half a dozen years ago, Janet became actively interested in mathematical biology, and was Principal Investigator for an NSF grant to develop a mathematical biology course, which she then taught at Hope College several times. In conjunction with that course, she mentored many student undergraduate research projects. Through activities of the BioQUEST curriculum consortium, the Society for Mathematical Biology and in many other ways, she was untiring in her efforts to promote the inclusion of mathematics in biology education (and vice versa) and encouraged broad collaboration among mathematicians and biologists in both research and teaching. In the last few months before her death, she was organizing and promoting the formation of BIO SIGMAA.

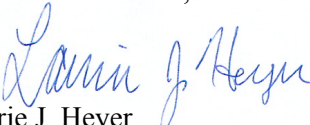
The Janet L. Andersen prize is awarded annually at MAA MathFest "for excellence in mathematical and/or computational biology exhibited in a presentation by an undergraduate student," and was given for the first time in 2007 at the San Jose Mathfest. We are writing to ask if you would like to contribute to a fund that would allow BIO SIGMAA to award this prize in perpetuity.

We hope that, with your assistance, we will be able to offer two prizes each year, one to a Pi Mu Epsilon speaker and one to an MAA student speaker, as is customary for the other student prizes. The amount of the award is the same as that of the other student prizes, currently \$250.

We are grateful for any contribution you may care to make. Checks should be directed to

The Janet L. Andersen Prize Fund  
c/o Lisa Kolbe, Development Manager  
The Mathematical Association of America  
1529 18th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20036

With sincere thanks,

  
Laurie J. Heyer  
Chair, BIO SIGMAA