

Candidates for the NAM Board of Directors Are Accomplished and Ready to Serve!

IT IS A CONTEST! Those running for positions on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Mathematicians in the Fall 1999 elections are accomplished in mathematics research or education, and in service to the mathematical sciences community. The candidates and positions are:

President: John W. Alexander, Jr. and Raymond L. Johnson

Region A Member: Shirley Thompson and Herman Windham

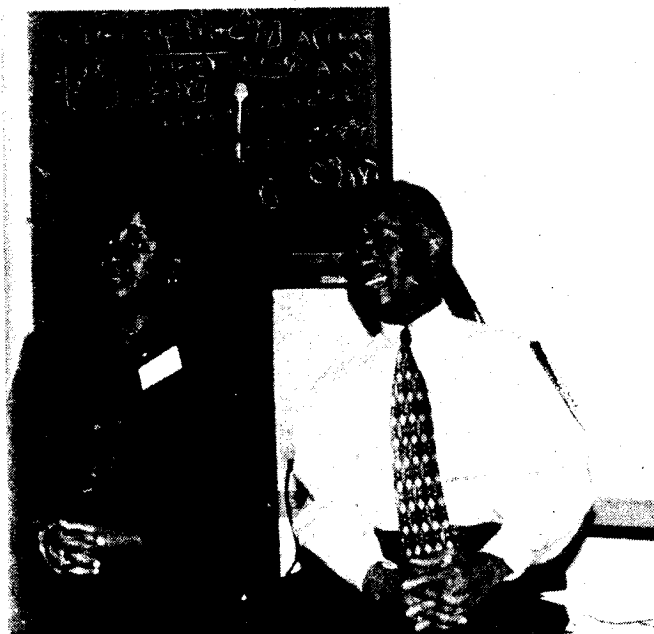
Government/Industry Member: William A. Massey

Biographies and/or statements from the candidates appear in this issue on page 10!

The ballot for the Fall 1999 elections for positions on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Mathematicians will appear in the Fall 1999 issue of the NAM Newsletter. The elections are being directed by Dr. Gloria Hewitt. Each NAM member will be asked to vote for one candidate for each position. Write-ins are allowed. Voting is the duty of a responsible NAM member.

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Dr. Dominic Clemence of North Carolina A&T State University, and Dr. Georgia Lawrence of Elizabeth City State University served on the panel at NAM's Regional Faculty Conference held at Howard University March 19-20, 1999.

Has Proposition 209 Affected the Participation of Minority Students in the Emerging Scholars Program at UC Davis?

By Dr. D. A. Kouba

The Emerging Scholars Program (ESP) has been a highly selective, accelerated calculus program for first year engineering calculus students at the University of California at Davis since 1990. Students in ESP meet three hours per week in lecture (traditional grading) and five hours per week in a calculus laboratory (pass/no pass), where they work cooperatively on both standard and non-standard challenging differential and integral calculus problems in groups of three to four students. Emphasis is placed upon discipline, responsibility, creativity, communication, cooperation, and independent learning. All eligible students at UC Davis are encouraged to apply, though special attention is given to minority and low-income applicants. Minority students at the University of California are classified as Native American, African-American, or Mexican-American (Latino, Chicano).

During fall quarter 1998 Proposition 209, an initiative banning race-based selection of students to the University of California, officially went into effect. However, highly emotional discussion in the local, state, and national media of the controversial plan to end affirmative action began in early 1996. Arguably, this had an immediate chilling effect on the number of minority applications since UC was now viewed by some as openly unfriendly to the historically underrepresented groups. Consequently, my recruitment for ESP has been affected.

The following table shows minority enrollment (by percent) among all newly admitted students to UC Davis for

academic years 1995-1996 through 1998-1999.

Academic year, fall	95	96	97	98
Minority enrollment (%)				
Native Americans	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.0
African American	3.4	2.8	2.6	2.8
Mexican American	11.4	9.2	9.9	10.0

The following table shows total enrollment and minority enrollment (by percent) in ESP for academic years 1990-1991 through 1998-1999.

Acad. Year, fall	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98
Total ESP enrollment	29	32	39	49	56	52	70	64	85
(%) Minority	55.2	31.3	51.3	36.7	60.7	28.8	14.3	37.5	25.9

During the period from fall 1990 through spring 1996 47.9% (123 out of 257) of the ESP participants at UC Davis were minority students. During the period from fall 1996 through spring 1999 25.6% (56 out of 219) of the ESP participants at UC Davis were minority students. The total number of students served by the Emerging Scholars Program has nearly tripled since its inception in 1990, but the minority student participation has recently lagged behind this steady overall growth. Despite the continuing efforts by the University of California to experiment with new ways to maintain diversity, using zip codes to identify underrepresented areas of the state, for example, there is evidence to suggest that Proposition 209 has significantly lowered the number of ESP-eligible students at UC Davis.

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