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Maeve McCarthy named AWM Executive Director

The Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) has named Maeve Lewis McCarthy as its executive director. McCarthy will support the work of the AWM Executive Committee and will work with AWM's managing director Jennifer Lewis. McCarthy will be active in AWM's participation at the Joint Mathematics Meetings, the SIAM Annual Meeting, and MathFest. Other duties will include grant reporting, facilitating committee rotation and volunteer efforts for AWM's programs, and carrying out new initiatives.

Cathy Kessel, President of AWM, says, "This spring, Maeve was able to give us a small amount of consulting time. I am impressed with how quickly she fit in and how much she has been able to accomplish. This makes me very excited about what we will be able to accomplish with her as our executive director."

A native of Ireland, McCarthy received both her B.Sc. in Mathematical Physics and M.Sc. in Mathematical Sciences from the National University of Ireland, Galway. She moved to Houston, Texas to attend Rice University where she earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in Computational and Applied Mathematics under the direction of Steve Cox. After a year at University of South Florida, McCarthy accepted a position in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Murray State University. She has taught at Murray State since 1998 and has just been promoted to the rank of full professor there.

McCarthy was a 1998 Project NeXT fellow and has served on the editorial board of *Focus* and *MAA Online*. She is a member of the SIAM

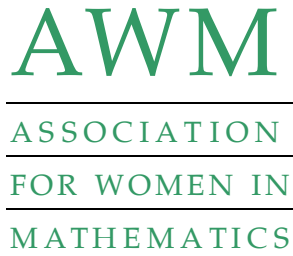
Education Committee and an Associate Editor of *SIAM Undergraduate Research Online*. She has organized many programs at conferences including AWM workshops and research minisymposia at SIAM meetings, special sessions at AMS Section meetings, and professional development programs for Project NeXT and SIAM. McCarthy's involvement with AWM began as a graduate student when she participated in an AWM workshop at the SIAM Annual Meeting. She has since been a mentor at many

AWM workshops. She says, "I hope I can be as good for AWM as AWM has been for me."

McCarthy admits to "an addiction to eigenvalues that began in secondary school in Ireland." Her research interests include the application of eigenvalues to population dynamics and mechanical design. Her work in differential equations and inverse problems focuses on the identification of parameters in biological and physical

applications. In 2006, she received a Presidential Research Fellowship from Murray State and an Academic Achievement Award from the Commonwealth of Kentucky for her research. Her work on inverse spectral problems has been funded by the National Science Foundation. She was instrumental in the development of BioMaPS (Biology and Mathematics in Population Studies), an undergraduate research program at Murray State which is also supported by NSF. She credits being the recipient of an AWM Mentoring Travel Grant in 2000 with "kick-starting her research after graduate school."





PRESS RELEASE

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While serving the AWM as Executive Director, McCarthy will continue in her position at Murray State University, where her primary focus is teaching and mentoring undergraduates. She will work from Murray, Kentucky where she lives with her husband Scott Lewis, a combinatorialist, and their daughter Susan. She notes: "I am incredibly excited to be appointed as Executive Director of AWM. Being a woman mathematician is not enough. I want my daughter to know that I have done everything I could to enhance opportunities for women in mathematics and academia."