
Mathematics People

2000 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences

In October 2000 the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced that the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel would be shared by two economists who work at the border of economics and statistics. The laureates are JAMES J. HECKMAN of the University of Chicago and DANIEL L. MCFADDEN of the University of California, Berkeley.

In the field of microeconometrics each of the laureates has developed theory and methods that are widely used in the statistical analysis of individual and household behavior, within economics as well as other social sciences.

Microeconometrics—on the boundary between economics and statistics—is a methodology for studying micro-data, i.e., economic information about large groups of individuals, households, or firms. Greater availability of micro-data and increasingly powerful computers have enabled empirical studies of many new issues. Heckman and McFadden have resolved fundamental problems that arise in the statistical analysis of micro-data. The methods they have developed have solid foundations in economic theory but have evolved in close interplay with applied research on important social problems. They are now standard tools not only among economists but also among other social scientists.

The prize of 9 million Swedish crowns (about \$900,000) will be shared equally between the laureates.

—From a Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
news release

Pi Mu Epsilon Student Prizes

Each year the AMS sponsors the AMS Award for Outstanding Pi Mu Epsilon Student Paper Presentation. The

awards, first presented in 1989, are made by Pi Mu Epsilon (PME), the U.S. honorary mathematics society, to recognize the best undergraduate student papers presented at a PME student paper session. Each awardee receives a prize of \$150. Eight students received awards for presentations at the Student Conference in Los Angeles, held August 2–4, 2000, and jointly sponsored by PME and the Mathematical Association of America. The names of the students, together with their institutions and the titles of their talks, are listed below.

ERIN M. BERGMAN, St. Norbert College, “Energizer Fractions: They Keep Going and Going and...”; JOHN T. GRIESMER, Miami University, “Continuity of the Derivative at a Point and on an Interval”; YAKOV KRONROD, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, “Statistics in the World of Civil Services”; SARAH LALUMIA, Youngstown State University, “Convergence of Infinite Series”; JOEL LEPAK, Youngstown State University, “Searching for a Perfect Voting System”; JUDY MAENDEL, Mount Union College, “Fundamental Groups and the Manifolds in Your Cereal Bowl”; KATHRYN RENDALL, St. Norbert College, “Zero Sum Rado Number for $X_1 + X_2 + C = X_3$ ”; and THOMAS WAKEFIELD, Youngstown State University, “The Irrationality of e and π ”.

—Allyn Jackson

Deaths

EDWARD Z. ANDALAFTE, of the University of Missouri at St. Louis, died on May 30, 2000. Born on August 7, 1935, he was a member of the Society for 41 years.

EVERETT HENRY LARGUIER, professor emeritus of Spring Hill College, Mobile, AL, died on September 20, 2000. Born on January 25, 1910, he was a member of the Society for 64 years.

MAX SHIFFMAN, retired from California State University Hayward, died on July 2, 2000. Born on October 30, 1914, he was a member of the Society for about 60 years.