Mathematics People

Rhodes Scholarships Awarded

Six mathematics students are among the thirty-two American men and women chosen as Rhodes Scholars by the Rhodes Scholarship Trust. The Rhodes Scholars were chosen from 950 applicants who were endorsed by 327 colleges and universities in a nationwide competition. The names and brief biographical descriptions of the mathematics scholars follow.

ZACHARY J. BATTLES of State College, Pennsylvania, is a double major in computer science and mathematics at Pennsylvania State University, where he will also receive an M.S. in computer science. The winner of many scholarships and awards in science and engineering, Battles, who is blind, has been extremely active in the United States and internationally in programs for people with disabilities and has done community service in Ukraine. At Oxford he will study for the D.Phil. in numerical analysis.

THOMAS M. PALLATHY of Newark, Delaware, graduated from the University of Delaware with a B.A. in mathematics and philosophy and an M.A. in linguistics and cognitive sciences. He has published work in neuroscience and is completing a book and documentary on refugee studies. Pallathy has also assisted refugees in Kosovo and Bosnia, before and after the NATO campaign, and has advised policymakers on their plight. At Oxford he will study for the M.Phil. in development studies.

BEN M. GOODWIN of Conway, Arkansas, is a senior mathematics major at Hendrix College. A Goldwater Scholar and the winner of many awards for his research and scholarship, he has presented mathematical papers at national meetings. Goodwin is also an environmental activist and is involved with Habitat for Humanity and other community and national service organizations and projects. He will read for the B.A. in mathematical sciences at Oxford.

THOMAS S. MCCALEB JR. of Tallahassee, Florida, is in his final year at the United States Air Force Academy, where he majors in mathematics. A Cadet Wing Commander, a triathlete, and a member of the Academy parachute team, he is ranked second in the Cadet Order of Merit for his class. He plans to read for the B.A. in modern history and economics at Oxford.

SARAH S. JOHNSON of Lexington, Kentucky, is a senior at Washington University in St. Louis, where she majors in mathematics, environmental studies, and earth and planetary sciences. The recipient of both Truman and Goldwater Scholarships, she has worked on the NASA Discovery Mission Team and was a delegate to the United Nations Climate Summit. Johnson is also active as a peer advisor, as a math tutor, and with the Special Olympics. At Oxford she will read philosophy, politics, and economics.

PHILLIP N. ASSMUS of Madison, South Dakota, is a senior at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, where he is a triple major in physics, mathematics, and computer science. A Goldwater Scholar, he has worked at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and has won prizes for his work in mathematics. He founded a food drive and is active in many community and college organizations. Assmus spent a semester at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and studied women in development in India. He intends to study for the M.Phys. in physics at Oxford.

Rhodes Scholarships provide two or three years of study at the University of Oxford in England. The value of the Rhodes Scholarship varies depending on the academic field, the degree (B.A., master's, doctoral), and the Oxford college chosen. The Rhodes Trust pays all college and university fees and provides a stipend to cover necessary expenses while in residence in Oxford, as well as during vacations, and transportation to and from England. The total value averages approximately $27,000 per year.

—From a Rhodes Scholarship Trust announcement

Diaconis Chosen von Neumann Lecturer

PERSI W. DIACONIS of Stanford University was selected by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) to deliver the 2000 John von Neumann Lecture. The lecture was titled "Geometry of Markov Chains" and was given at the SIAM 2000 Annual Meeting in Puerto Rico.

The John von Neumann Lecture prize was established in 1959 and is given in the form of an honorarium of

$2,500 plus travel expenses to deliver an invited lecture at the SIAM annual meeting. The selected lecturer surveys and evaluates a significant and useful contribution to mathematics and its applications.

—From a SIAM announcement

2000 Maria Mitchell Women in Science Award

The Maria Mitchell Association has announced the recipients of its Women in Science Award for 2000. They are CINDA-SUE C. DAVIS, director of the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Program, University of Michigan, and CATHERINE BANKS, director of the Science and Mathematics Center for Women (SMC), Texas Women's University.

Davis has been the director of the WISE program since 1984, working to provide enriched learning, research, and mentoring opportunities for girls and women from the precollege years through graduate study. She has been instrumental in developing and hosting a number of important conferences on gender-equity issues in science education. Banks is the founding director of SMC, which opened in 1986 and provides resources to enable girls and women to pursue education in science, mathematics, computer science, and engineering. The winners each receive a cash award of $5,000.

The Maria Mitchell Association makes the annual award to recognize an individual, program, or organization that encourages the advancement of girls and women in studies and careers in science and technology. Maria Mitchell (1818–1889) was the first woman astronomer and first woman astronomy professor in the United States. The award may be given in the natural and physical sciences, mathematics, engineering, computer science, or technology.

—From a Maria Mitchell Association announcement

Deaths

ERNST AUGUST (PETER) BEHRENS, professor emeritus, McMaster University, died on December 1, 2000. Born on May 11, 1915, he was a member of the Society for 44 years.

JOSEPH L. CARMEN, IBM, Raleigh, NC, died on October 28, 2000. Born on April 17, 1966, he was a member of the Society for 1 year.

RADHA G. LAHA, professor emeritus, Bowling Green State University, died on July 14, 1999. Born on October 1, 1930, he was a member of the Society for 36 years.

ROBERT BRUCE MCLAUGHLIN, of Herndon, VA, died on July 12, 2000. Born on August 30, 1959, he was a member of the Society for 2 years.

KENNAN T. SMITH, professor emeritus, Oregon State University, died on November 18, 2000. Born on July 17, 1926, he was a member of the Society for 51 years.

Institute for Mathematical Sciences National University of Singapore

The National University of Singapore has recently formed the new Institute for Mathematical Sciences, whose mission is to provide an international center of excellence for mathematical research. The institute's programs will focus on fundamental issues in and applications of the mathematical sciences and will also promote interest in those fields and in multidisciplinary research in Singapore and the region.

Each year, the institute will organize two programs, each lasting up to six months, in accordance with developing trends in the mathematical sciences and with the interests of scientists in Singapore and the region. Mathematical scientists at junior and senior levels and graduate students are expected to visit the institute for periods of varying lengths, ranging from one month to six months, and to interact with each other through workshops, seminars, and informal discussions.

From July to December 2001, the inaugural program of the institute will focus on the following areas:

Coding Theory and Data Integrity:

The program will be divided into three parts, each lasting six to eight weeks:

1. Mathematical foundations (computational number theory, algebraic curves, and related topics);

2. Coding and cryptography (constructions of codes and cryptosystems, and related topics);

3. Applied cryptology (implementations, commercial applications, and related topics).

Each part of the program will include a one-week tutorial and a one-week workshop.

Organizing Committee: Shih-Ping Chan, Robert Deng, San Ling, Harald Niederreiter (chair), Eiji Okamoto, Igor E. Shparlinski, Neil J.A. Sloane, and Chaoping Xing.

The institute invites applications for membership for participation in the above program. A limited number of fellowships, covering travel and living expenses, are available to young mathematical scientists. Applications should be received at least three (3) months before the commencement of membership.

More information and application forms
are available from:
http://www.ims.nus.edu.sg
or by writing to:
Secretary, Institute for Mathematical Sciences
National University of Singapore
2 Science Drive 2
Singapore 117543, Republic of Singapore