
Mathematics People

Croatian Mathematical Society Awards Prize

IVAN SLAPNIČAR from University of Split, Split, Croatia, was awarded the Croatian Mathematical Society Prize for his work in the theory of relative perturbations for eigenvalue problems. The prize was presented at the start of The First Croatian Mathematical Congress held July 18–20, 1996, at the University of Zagreb, in Zagreb, Croatia. This prize will be awarded every four years to a young Croatian mathematician under the age of 35 for an outstanding scientific contribution.

—from *Croatian Mathematical Society Announcement*

Juris Hartmanis Heads NSF Computer Directorate

JURIS HARTMANIS, an expert in the theory of computation and computational complexity, has been appointed assistant director of the National Science Foundation Directorate of Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE). This directorate has responsibility for NSF's efforts with the Internet, supercomputers, robotics and intelligent systems, information processing systems, and computational research.

After receiving his doctorate in mathematics from the California Institute of Technology in 1955, Hartmanis taught at Cornell and Ohio State University before going to General Electric Research Laboratory. Since 1965 Hart-

manis has been at Cornell University, where he helped create the computer science department and served as its first chair. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and in 1993 received the Turing Award, the highest award in computer science.

In 1992 he chaired a National Research Council study which resulted in the book *Computing the Future: A Broader Agenda for Computer Science and Engineering*. The two years' work with the committee, he said, helped focus his interest on computer science policy.

—from *NSF Announcement*

Mathematics Competition Awards Announced

At the International Congress of Mathematics Education in Seville, Spain, this past summer, the World Federation of National Mathematics Competitions presented the David Hilbert International Award and the Paul Erdős Awards. These awards recognize mathematicians whose contributions have played a significant role in the development of mathematical challenges at the international and, respectively, the national levels.

The Hilbert award was presented to ANDREW CHIANG-FUNG LIU of the University of Alberta. He has worked on a wide range of mathematical competitions, including the USA Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO), the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), the Australian Mathematics Competition, and the International Mathematics Tournament of the Towns. He has been running a local mathematics club

since 1981 and has received a number of teaching awards from his university.

The 1994–1995 Erdős award goes to GEORGE BERZENYI and TONY GARDINER. Berzenyi, a professor of mathematics at the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, has worked on the USAMO and the American Invitational Mathematics Examination, as well as the Australian Mathematics Competition. He was instrumental in creating Lamar Mathematics Day and the Texas Mathematics Olympiad. Gardiner has taught in East Africa and lectured in Germany, Austria, Canada, the U.S., Australia, Norway, and Hungary. He is best known for three contributions: founding the UK Schools Mathematical Challenge in 1988 (which grew to 105,000 participants by 1993), organizing the Junior Math Olympiad of the British Mathematical Olympiad, and serving as national team leader for the British IMO team.

The 1995–1996 Erdős award goes to DEREK HOLTON of the University of Otago. Since arriving in New Zealand in 1985 Holton has transformed an isolated set of mathematics enrichment programs into a coordinated national program. His activities include running a regular problem-solving session for high school students, organizing and participating in mathematics camps for bright students, and conducting research on working with talented students. He also initiated the Tournament of the Towns and the International Mathematical Challenge in New Zealand.

—from *World Federation of National Mathematics Competitions Announcement*

Presidential Mentoring Awards Announced

In September the National Science Foundation (NSF) announced that sixteen organizations and individuals were selected to receive the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring. Established by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and administered by the NSF, these awards recognize individuals, educational institutions, and organizations most responsible for enhancing the participation of underrepresented groups in science, mathematics, and engineering. Each award includes a \$10,000 grant and a Presidential commemorative certificate.

Ten awards went to individuals, and among these were two in the mathematical sciences: JOAQUIN BUSTOZ of Arizona State University and RICHARD A. TAPIA of Rice University. They are two of the twenty-seven Mexican-Americans in the U.S. who hold Ph.D.s in mathematics.

Bustoz has established mentoring programs for underrepresented minority precollege students living in urban areas and on Arizona reservations to encourage their study of mathematics. These programs now reach over 200 students, and over 1,000 students have gone through the program since 1985. These efforts have contributed to the attraction of mathematics at Arizona State University, where one-third of the mathematics majors are minorities. He has

also worked extensively on the Navajo and Pima Reservations, in an NSF-funded Young Scholars program. This program includes a component for teachers and an after-school program. He and Tapia work on the SUMMA project of the Mathematical Association of America (Strengthening Underrepresented Minorities' Mathematics Achievement).

Tapia is the Noah Harding Professor of Mathematical Sciences at Rice. He also serves as the associate director of minority affairs in the Office of Graduate Studies and as the director of education and minority programs of the Center for Research in Parallel Computation (CRPC). In addition to overseeing the college careers of hundreds of minority students, Tapia has directed the advanced work of twenty-eight students, including seven minority students, in computational and applied mathematics. The programs he directs at CRPC have, in less than ten years, reached more than 750 students and 700 teachers, especially underrepresented minorities and women. Tapia, who has served as a consultant for major corporations and the government, was the first Mexican-American to be elected to the National Academy of Engineering.

—from *NSF News Release*

Visiting Mathematicians

(Supplementary List)

Mathematicians visiting other institutions during the 1996–97 academic year have been listed in recent issues of the *Notices*: July 1996, pp. 784–786; September 1996, p. 988; November 1996, p. 1371. The following is an update to those lists (home countries are listed in parentheses).

SHARAD AGNIHORTI (United Kingdom), University of Texas, Austin, Analysis, 9/96–8/97.

DRAGOS HRIMIUC (Romania), University of Alberta, Finsler Geometry, 4/96–4/97.

YOUNG YOON LEE (Korea), University of Alberta, Functional Analysis, 8/96–7/97.

ANDREA NAHMOD (Argentina), University of Texas, Austin, Harmonic Analysis, 9/96–8/97.

HON-KIT WAI (Hong Kong), University of Texas, Austin, Differential Geometry and Topology, 9/96–8/97.

XIAO-QIANG ZHAO (China), University of Alberta, Differential Equations, Dynamical Systems, 5/96–12/96.

JOHN ZWECK (Australia), University of Texas, Austin, Geometry, 9/96–8/97.