Mathematics People

Operator Algebra Prize Awarded

The first Operator Algebra Prize of Japan is awarded to YASUYUKI KAWAHIGASHI of the University of Tokyo. Kawahigashi was chosen for his outstanding contributions to the theory of automorphism groups of injective von Neumann algebras and the subfactor theory and thus to the advancement of operator algebra theory. He will receive a cash award of 300,000 Japanese yen (about US$2,700), a certificate, and a medal.

The Operator Algebra Prize was established in April 1999 by senior Japanese researchers in order to encourage younger researchers in operator algebra theory and related fields. The prize is to be awarded every four years to a person age 40 years or younger either of Japanese nationality or primarily affiliated with a Japanese institution for outstanding contributions to operator algebra theory and related areas.

—Huzihiro Araki, chair, Operator Algebra Prize Committee

Benktander Prize Awarded

WERNER HÜRLIMANN, a mathematician at Winterthur Life and Pensions, has received the Gunnar Benktander Prize. The prize of 7,000 Swedish crowns (around US$700) is presented by the nonlife section of the International Actuarial Association. Gunnar Benktander is a Swedish actuary, now retired, who spent his life working for reinsurance companies and was one of the early researchers in actuarial science. Applicants for the prize had to submit a paper on a specific reinsurance issue. The title of Hürlimann's winning paper is "Financial Data Analysis with Two Symmetric Distributions".

—Allyn Jackson

PECASE Awards Announced

Fifty-nine young researchers have been chosen to receive the 2000 Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). This award is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on outstanding young scientists, mathematicians, and engineers who are in the early stages of establishing their independent research careers.

The recipients were selected from nominations made by nine participating federal agencies. Each recipient receives a five-year grant of up to $500,000 to further his or her research and educational efforts.

Three mathematicians are among the awardees this year. RICHARD B. LEHOUCQ of Sandia National Laboratories was nominated by the Department of Energy. SARA C. BILLEY and GEORGIA PERAKIS, both of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, were among the nominees of the National Science Foundation.

—From a White House announcement

NRC-Ford Foundation Minority Fellowships Awarded

The names of the recipients of Ford Foundation Minority Fellowships for 2000 have been announced. The fellowship programs are administered by the National Research Council for the purpose of increasing the presence of underrepresented groups among faculty members in colleges and universities. The recipients were selected from a field of about 1,000 applicants, based on merit and promise of future achievement.

Two students in the mathematical sciences were awarded 2000 Predoctoral Fellowships. This program provides students of demonstrated ability with the opportunity to engage in advanced study leading to the Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree in research-based doctoral programs. The recipients

are NANDI OLIVE LESLIE of Princeton University and ERIKA TATIANA WIRKUS of Cornell University. Both are students in the field of applications of mathematics.

—From a National Research Council announcement

AAAS Fellows Elected

Five mathematicians have been elected as Fellows of the Mathematics Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The new fellows are MICHEL L. LAPIDUS, University of California Riverside; KENNETH C. MILLETT, University of California Santa Barbara; FRANK QUINN, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; DONALD G. SAARI, University of California Irvine; and MICHAEL SHUB, IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, New York.

—From an AAAS announcement

Accademia dei Lincei Fellows Elected

The Accademia dei Lincei has announced the election of two new fellows in mathematics. They are CLAUDIO PROCESI, Istituto Guido Castelnuovo, University of Rome; and CARLO CERCIGNANI, Politecnico di Milano.

—From an Accademia dei Lincei announcement

Deaths

JOHN GREEN, professor emeritus, University of California Los Angeles, died on November 1, 2000. Born on March 8, 1914, he was a member of the Society for 63 years and secretary of the AMS from 1957 to 1966.

RUTH MICHLER, of the University of North Texas, died on November 1, 2000. Born on March 8, 1967, she was a member of the Society for 11 years.

ROBERT MIZNER, manager, Jackson National Life Insurance, Lansing, MI, died on July 20, 2000. Born on October 31, 1956, he was a member of the Society for 20 years.

HELGA SCHIRMER, professor emeritus, Carleton University, Canada, died on October 4, 2000. Born on October 18, 1927, she was a member of the Society for 33 years.

DIRK STRUIK, professor emeritus, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, died on October 21, 2000. Born on September 30, 1894, he was a member of the Society for 73 years.

CLASINE VAN WINTER, professor emeritus, University of Kentucky, Lexington, died on October 16, 2000. Born on April 8, 1929, she was a member of the Society for 31 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 cryptology (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, Neit 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:
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National University of Singapore
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Singapore 117543, Republic of Singapore