Mathematics People

Naur Receives Turing Award

The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) has named PETER NAUR of the University of Copenhagen as the winner of the 2005 A. M. Turing Award. Considered the "Nobel Prize of Computing", the Turing Award was presented to Naur for his pioneering work on defining the Algol 60 programming language and for his contributions to compiler design and to the art and practice of computer programming. Naur retired in 1998.

The Turing Award, first given in 1966 and named for British mathematician Alan M. Turing, carries a US$100,000 prize, with financial support provided by Intel Corporation.

—From an ACM announcement

Aumann Awarded von Neumann Prize

The 2005 John von Neumann Theory Prize, the highest prize given in the field of operations research and management science, has been awarded to ROBERT J. AUMANN of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in recognition of his fundamental contributions to game theory and related areas. The award, which is presented by the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS), carries a cash award of US$5,000.

The prize citation reads in part: "Aumann has played an essential and indispensable role in game theory's development for almost half a century. The common theme in Aumann's work is a unified view of rational behavior...Aumann's work introduced basic concepts and principles, created appropriate tools for their study, developed theoretic foundations for significant ideas, established important relationships, and analyzed various particular applications."

—From an INFORMS announcement

Plaskota Awarded 2006 Information-Based Complexity Prize

The recipient of the 2006 Information-Based Complexity Prize is LESZEK PLASKOTA of the Department of Mathematics, Informatics, and Mechanics at the University of Warsaw, Poland. The prize consists of US$3,000 and a plaque. The award will be presented at the Workshop on Algorithms and Complexity for Continuous Problems at Schloss Dagstuhl, Germany, in September 2006.

This annual prize of US$3,000 is given for outstanding contributions to information-based complexity.

—Joseph Traub, Columbia University

Ferran Sunyer i Balaguer Prize Awarded

The Ferran Sunyer i Balaguer Prize for 2006 has been awarded to XIAONAN MA of the Centre de Mathématiques Laurent Schwartz de l'École Polytechnique and GEORGE MARINESCU of the Institut für Analysis und Mathematische Physik of the J. W. Goethe Universität in Frankfurt for their monograph *Holomorphic Morse Inequalities and Bergman Kernels*. The monograph presents a self-contained and unified approach to the holomorphic Morse inequalities and the asymptotic expansion of the Bergman kernel on manifolds using the heat kernel. In addition to treating various applications, the book provides perspectives on several active areas of research in complex, Kähler, and symplectic geometry.

The Ferran Sunyer i Balaguer Foundation (http://www.crm.cat/FerranSunyerBalaguer/ffsb.htm) of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans awards this international prize every year to honor the memory of Ferran Sunyer i Balaguer (1912–1967), a self-taught Catalan mathematician who gained international recognition for his research in

mathematical analysis despite the serious physical disabilities with which he was born. The prize carries a cash award of 12,000 euros (approximately US$15,500); the winning monographs are published by Birkhäuser Verlag.

Massey Receives Blackwell-Tapia Award

The National Blackwell-Tapia Committee is pleased to announce that the 2006 Blackwell-Tapia Prize will be awarded to WILLIAM A. MASSEY, Edwin S. Wiley Professor of Operations Research and Financial Engineering at Princeton University.

This prize is awarded every second year in honor of the legacy of David H. Blackwell and Richard A. Tapia, two distinguished mathematical scientists who have been inspirations to more than a generation of African American, Latino/Latina, and Native American students and professionals in the mathematical sciences. It recognizes a mathematical scientist who has contributed and continues to contribute significantly to research in his or her field of expertise, and who has served as a role model for mathematical scientists and students from underrepresented minority groups or contributed in other significant ways to addressing the problem of the underrepresentation of minorities in mathematics.

Massey has an outstanding record of achievement in both his mathematical research and his efforts to bring more underrepresented minorities into the mathematical sciences. As a mathematical scientist, he has done cutting edge research in many areas, with his current interests being dynamical queueing systems; performance, pricing, priority, and provisioning models for communication systems and services; asymptotic analysis of stochastic networks; and stochastic orders on posets. He has published prolifically in these areas, and is a highly sought speaker on these topics whose talks include presentations in such prestigious venues as invited hour addresses for sectional and national meetings of the Mathematical Association of America, American Mathematical Society, and National Association of Mathematicians. His best known contribution to addressing the underrepresentation of minorities in mathematics is probably his continuing work as primary national organizer for the annual Conference for African American Researchers in the Mathematical Sciences (CAARMS). However, his efforts extend well beyond that venue to chairing and contributing to many other national committees and conferences that address this problem, in addition to his personal mentoring of many successful minority mathematical scientists.

The prize will be presented at the Fourth Blackwell-Tapia Conference, to be held at the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) in Minneapolis on November 3–4, 2006; see http://www.ima.umn.edu/2006-2007/SW11.3-4.06/ for more information. The one-and-a-half day meeting will include a mix of activities designed to inform the next generation of students about career opportunities in mathematics and to provide a chance for them to network with other students and with mathematical scientists who play a leadership role in their communities.

The members of the National Blackwell-Tapia Committee are: Douglas Arnold, Rodrigo Bañuelos, Carlos Castillo-Chavez, Nathaniel Dean, David Eisenbud, Robert Megginson, and Arlie O. Petters.

The first three Blackwell-Tapia conferences were held at Cornell University (2000), the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) in Berkeley (2002), and the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics at the University of California, Los Angeles (2004). The idea for the first conference arose from discussions in the MSRI Human Resources Advisory Committee. The success of that conference led directly to the second in the series and the first awarding of the Blackwell-Tapia Prize at MSRI in 2002, with the goal of extending the honoring of these two eminent mathematical scientists to those who have followed in their footsteps.

National Academy of Sciences Elections

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has announced the election of seventy-two new members and eighteen foreign associates. The following mathematical scientists are among the newly elected members: LEONARD ADELMAN, University of Southern California; LESLIE GREENGARD, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University; HENRYK IWANIEC, Rutgers University; and DAN-VIRGIL VOICULESCU, University of California, Berkeley. Elected as foreign members were LENNART A. E. CARLESON, University of Uppsala, Sweden; and ALOISIO PESSOA DE ARAUJO, Institute of Pure and Applied Mathematics, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

American Academy Elections

Seven mathematical scientists have been elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for 2006. They are: JEFF CHEEGER, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University; DAVID D. EISENBUD, Mathematical Sciences Research Institute and University of California, Berkeley; MARTIN GOLUBITSKY, University of Houston; ROBERT K. LAZARSFELD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; CHARLES M. NEWMAN, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University; CRAIG TRACY, University of California, Davis; HAROLD WIDOM, University of California, Santa Cruz.

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences was founded in 1780 to foster the development of knowledge

as a means of promoting the public interest and social progress. The membership of the academy is elected and represents distinction and achievement in a range of intellectual disciplines: mathematical and physical sciences, biological sciences, social arts and sciences, and humanities and fine arts.

—From an AAAS announcement

Cobb and D'Ambrosio Receive ICMI Medals

The Felix Klein and Hans Freudenthal Medals were created by the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction (ICMI) to recognize outstanding achievement in mathematics education research. The Felix Klein Medal, named for the first president of ICMI (1908–1920), honors lifetime achievement. The Hans Freudenthal Medal, named for the eighth president of ICMI (1967–1970), recognizes a major cumulative program of research.

The awards represent the judgment of an (anonymous) jury of distinguished scholars of international stature, chaired by Michèle Artigue of the University Paris 7.

ICMI is proud to announce the second awardees of the Klein and Freudenthal Medals.

The Felix Klein Medal for 2005 is awarded to UBIRATAN D'AMBROSIO, emeritus professor at the University of Campinas in Brazil. This distinction acknowledges the role D'Ambrosio has played in the development of mathematics education as a field of research and development throughout the world, above all in Latin America. It also recognizes his pioneering role in the development of research perspectives that are sensitive to the characteristics of social, cultural, and historical contexts in which the teaching and learning of mathematics take place, as well as his insistence on providing quality mathematics education to all, not just to a privileged segment of society.

The Hans Freudenthal Medal for 2005 is awarded to PAUL COBB, professor at Vanderbilt University in the United States. This distinction acknowledges his outstanding contribution to mathematics education: a rare combination of theoretical developments, empirical research, and practical applications, which has had a major influence on the mathematics education community and beyond.

Full citations of the work of these medalists can be found on the ICMI website, http://www.mathunion. org/ICMI/. Presentation of the medals and invited addresses of the medalists will occur at ICME-11 in Monterrey, July 2008.

Previous ICMI medalists are Guy Brousseau (2003 Felix Klein Medal) and Celia Hoyles (2003 Hans Freudenthal Medal).

—ICMI Announcement

USA Mathematical Olympiad

The thirty-fifth annual USA Mathematical Olympiad was held April 19 and 20, 2006. The students who participated in the Olympiad were selected on the basis of their performances on the American High School and American Invitational Mathematics Examinations. The twelve highest scorers in the USAMO, listed in alphabetical order, were SHERRY GONG, Exeter, New Hampshire; YI HAN, Exeter, New Hampshire; TAEHYEON KO, Exeter, New Hampshire; YAKOV BERCHENKO KOGAN, Raleigh, North Carolina; BRIAN LAWRENCE, Silver Spring, Maryland; TEDRICK LEUNG, North Hollywood, California; RICHARD MCCUTCHEN, Silver Spring, Maryland; PENG SHI, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; YI SUN, San Jose, California; ARNAV TRIPATHY, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; ALEX ZHAI, Urbana, Illinois; and YUFEI ZHAO, Don Mills, Ontario, Canada. Lawrence achieved a perfect score.

The twelve USAMO winners will attend the Mathematical Olympiad Summer Program (MOSP) from June 10 through July 3, 2006. Then six of the twelve students will be selected as the United States team to compete in the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), to be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, July 10–18, 2006.

—From an American Mathematics Competition