Mathematics People

Abouzaid, Galatius, and Maulik Named Clay Research Fellows

The Clay Mathematics Institute (CMI) has announced the appointment of three Research Fellows: MOHAMMED ABOUZAID of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, SOREN GALATIUS of Stanford University, and DAVESH MAULIK of Princeton University. They were selected for their research achievements and their potential to make significant future contributions to the field.

Mohammed Abouzaid, born in 1981, received his Ph.D. in 2007 from the University of Chicago under the direction of Paul Seidel. In his thesis Abouzaid used techniques from tropical geometry to give a new approach to the homological mirror symmetry conjecture for toric varieties. He is interested in symplectic topology and its interactions with algebraic geometry and differential topology.

Soren Galatius, born in 1976, is a native of Denmark and received his Ph.D. from the University of Aarhus in 2004 under the direction of Ib Madsen. The focus of his research is in algebraic topology, especially the interplay between stable homotopy theory and geometry. A recent result involves automorphism groups of free groups; he proved that the stable rational homology is trivial.

Davesh Maulik is completing his Ph.D. at Princeton University under the direction of Rahul Pandharipande. His mathematical interests are algebraic geometry and its connections with symplectic geometry, mathematical physics, and combinatorics. His current research focus is in the area of Gromov-Witten theory and enumerative geometry.

Current Clay Research Fellows include Artur Avila, Daniel Biss, Maria Chudnovsky, Ben Green, Sergei Gukov, Bo'az Klartag, Ciprian Manolescu, Maryam Mirzakhani, Sophie Morel, Sam Payne, David Speyer, András Vasy, and Akshay Venkatesh.

—From a CMI announcement

American Academy Elections

Nine mathematical scientists have been elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for 2007. They are: F. MICHAEL CHRIST, University of California, Berkeley; ROBERT L. GRIESS JR., University of Michigan; EHUD HRUSHOVSKI, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; VICTOR KAC, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; JON KLEINBERG, Cornell University; PETER WAI-WONG LI, University of California, Irvine; TOMASZ MROWKA, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; MICHAEL E. TAYLOR, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and ROBERT J. ZIMMER, University of Chicago.

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

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: ROBERT L. BRYANT, Duke University; RICHARD DURRETT, Cornell University; DAVID GOTTLIEB, Brown University; CURTIS T. MCMULLEN, Harvard University; and HAROLD M. STARK, University of California, San Diego. Elected as foreign associates were PIERRE DELIGNE, Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and JOHN KINGMAN, Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences, University of Cambridge.

—From an NAS announcement

Moody Mega Math Challenge Winners Announced

The winners of the 2007 Mega Math Challenge for high school students have been announced. A team from Manalapan High School, Manalapan, New Jersey, was awarded the Summa Cum Laude Team Prize of US$20,000 in scholarship money. The members of the team were JASON KORNBLUM, DENNIS KIM, CALEB TSENG, FRANKLIN TONG, and NAIIM ALI. The coach of the team was Jessy Friedman, and the title of the team's project was "Pick Six Stocks". The Magna Cum Laude Team Prize of US$15,000 also went to a team from Manalapan High School. The members were ANDY LIU, DOROTHEA TSANG, DAVID TRETHEWAY, JONATHAN NEWMAN, and JESSE BEYROUTEY. Their project was titled "Minimizing Risk…Maximizing Portfolio Profit". Their coach was Stephanie Pepper.

The Cum Laude Team Prize of US$10,000 in scholarship money was awarded to a team from Walt Whitman High School, Huntington Station, New York. The team members were JOHN LACARA, MATTHEW GIAMBRONE, PETER WERNER, JULIA HAIGNEY, and JESSICA BLOOM. They were coached by Louis Crisci. Their team project was titled "Cracking the Code: A Mathematical Solution to the Stock Market".

A team from High Technology High School in Lincroft, New Jersey, won the Meritorious Team Prize of US$7,500 for their project "Portfolio Management: Maximizing Investment Return". The team members were ELIZABETH WENDEL, RAJA SRINIVAS, and YELIZAVETA YERMAKOVA. Their coach was Ellen LeBlanc.

The Exemplary Team Prize of US$5,000 was awarded to a team from Great Neck North High School, Great Neck, New York, for their project "Constructing a Portfolio: Novel Mathematical Models for Profit Optimization". The team members were BEN LEIBOWICZ, SAM PANZER, BARRY DYNKIN, DAVID ROSENGARTEN, and SCOTT HUANG. Their coach was Linda Litvak.

The Mega Math Challenge invites teams of high school juniors and seniors to solve an open-ended, realistic, challenging modeling problem focused on real-world issues. The top five teams receive awards ranging from US$5,000 to US$20,000 in scholarship money. The competition is sponsored by the Moody's Foundation, a charitable foundation established by Moody's Corporation, and organized by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

—Elaine Kehoe

USA Mathematical Olympiad

The thirty-sixth annual USA Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO) was held April 24 and 25, 2007. 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: SERGEI BERNSTEIN, Belmont, Massachusetts; SHERRY GONG, Exeter, New Hampshire; ADAM HESTERBERG, Seattle, Washington; ERIC LARSON, Eugene, Oregon; BRIAN LAWRENCE, Silver Spring, Maryland; TEDRICK LEUNG, North Hollywood, California; HAITAO MAO, Alexandria, Virginia; DELONG MENG, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; KRISHANU SANKAR, Riverdale, New York; JACOB STEINHARDT, Alexandria, Virginia; ARNAV TRIPATHY, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; and ALEX ZHAI, Urbana, Illinois.

The twelve USAMO winners will attend the Mathematical Olympiad Summer Program (MOSP) from June 10 through June 30. 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 Hanoi, Vietnam, July 19 through 31, 2007.

—From an American Mathematics Competition announcement