Mathematics People

Johnson Receives AAAS Mentoring Award

RAYMOND L. JOHNSON of the University of Maryland, College Park, has received the 2006 Mentor Award for Lifetime Achievement from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). He has mentored twenty-three students—twenty-two of them African Americans, eight of whom are women—who have received Ph.D. degrees in mathematics.

In 1969 Johnson became the first African American to earn a Ph.D. degree in mathematics from Rice University. He then became the first African American professor at the University of Maryland. He has devoted his career to increasing participation in the mathematical sciences by African Americans. He has served on the boards of governors of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) and the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA). He has helped to organize conferences to promote more participation in mathematics research by African Americans and other minorities and was a founding member of the Conference for African American Researchers in Mathematical Sciences.

The Mentor Award for Lifetime Achievement honors members of the AAAS who have mentored and guided significant numbers of underrepresented students toward Ph.D. degrees in the sciences and who have demonstrated scholarship, activism, and community building on behalf of underrepresented groups, including women of all racial or ethnic groups; African American, Native American, and Hispanic men; and people with disabilities. This award often recognizes individuals with twenty-five or more years of success in mentoring students. The recipient receives US$5,000 and a commemorative plaque.

—From an AAAS announcement

Yi Ni Receives AIM Five-Year Fellowship

YI NI of Princeton University has been named the recipient of the 2007 American Institute of Mathematics (AIM) Five-Year Fellowship.

Ni will complete his Ph.D. at Princeton under the direction of David Gabai. He works on the topology of three manifolds and knot theory. His thesis combines techniques from Heegaard Floer homology and foliation theory to prove that knot Floer homology detects fibered knots. He has written ten papers on this subject and others. He earned his B.S. in 2001 and his M.S. in 2003 from Peking University. He won a gold medal at the International Mathematical Olympiad in 1997.

The runners-up for the AIM Fellowship are Andrew Putman (University of Chicago), Andrew Schultz (Stanford University), and Corinna Ulcigrai (Princeton University).

—From an AIM announcement

National Academy of Engineering Elections

The National Academy of Engineering (NAE) has announced the election of sixty-four new members and nine foreign associates, including four whose work involves the mathematical sciences. Their names, institutions, and the research for which they were elected follow.

JOHN J. DORNING, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, for the development of advanced computational methods for nuclear reactor analysis; SILVIO MICALI, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, for contributions to modern cryptography through the development of zero-knowledge protocols and the theory of pseudo-randomness; EVA TARDOS, Cornell University, for contributions to the design and analysis of efficient algorithms for network problems; and LLOYD N. TREFETHEN, Oxford University, for contributions to stability theory in numerical analysis and its application to the determination of the onset of turbulence.

—From an NAE announcement