

Committee to Select the Winner of the Veblen Prize

General Description

- Committee is standing
- Number of members is three
- A new committee is appointed for each award

This prize was established in 1961 in memory of Professor Oswald Veblen through a fund contributed by former students and colleagues. The fund was later doubled by the widow of Professor Veblen, bringing the fund to \$2,000. The first two awards of the prize were made in 1966; thereafter, an award will ordinarily be made every three years for research in geometry or topology under conditions similar to those for the Bôcher Prize.

Principal Activities

The award is made every three years at the Annual (January) Meeting. The award is made for a notable research memoir in geometry or topology which has appeared in the last six years. Either the recipient is a member of the Society or the Memoir is published in a recognized North American Journal.

The Committee makes an interim report to the Executive Committee in a manner prescribed by the EC. See the report from Halmos and Hochster that the Council adopted as procedure.

After Review of the report and comments on it by the EC, the selection committee selects the winner.

The award is supplemented by a Steele Prize from the AMS under the name of the Veblen Prize. This is a matter of no concern to the selection committee.

Report of a subcommittee of the EC

A subcommittee of the EC consisting of Halmos and Hochster have written the following report.

COLLOQUIUM LECTURERS, GIBBS LECTURERS, PRIZE WINNERS

A report of a subcommittee of the EC

Certain of the Council's decisions (the selection of the Colloquium and Gibbs lectures and the selection of the recipients of the Society's prizes) have traditionally been delegated to special committees and then routinely approved by the EC. The procedure has not been totally satisfactory. (In most cases the EC gave rubber stamp approval, sometimes recommending committee didn't even produce its nominee's CV.)

As a compromise between, in effect, doing the work of the special committees (undesirable interference) and merely being informed of their decisions (insufficient supervision), the subcommittee recommends that the EC in the future use a system of combined input and pre-approval, as follows:

The special committees should submit to the EC their semifinal short list of choices (ordinarily two or three names for each slot), together with a one-page summary of the documentation justifying each name on the list, and to do so before receiving preliminary acceptance from the suggested nominees. The system should not be inflexible: if, for instance, the special committee feels strongly that there is a single obvious choice, it will suffice that that fact be communicated to the EC. For the Gibbs Lecturers, it would be desirable for the selection committee to provide some insight into the mathematical component of the proposed lecturers' work, not merely his credentials within his own area.

The EC should then comment on each name ("acceptable", "unacceptable", "excellent"), and possibly even suggest another name or two for the special committee's consideration. The final choice is to be left to the special committee. The EC is to be informed of it, but need no longer approve it.

Comment

The AMS Council (acting through its Executive Committee) and EC of the SIAM council are responsible for awarding the prize, which it does by approving the report of your committee. The Council wishes not to micromanage the selection process, so it asks that selection committees make an interim report listing the potential candidates, for its review and possible comment. These comments are then returned to your committee which is then asked to make the final selection and to communicate it to me. Communication is usually done by regular or electronic mail.

Past winners are listed every two years in the November issue of the *Notices*.

The award is supplemented by a Steele Prize from the AMS under the name of the Veblen Prize. This is a matter of no concern to the selection committee.

Other Activities

Equal Opportunities for Women

The Business Meeting of the January 19, 1972 passed the following resolution:

Resolved that:

- the American Mathematical Society will work actively for equal opportunities for women in the following areas:
 - employment at all levels: this will include the search for a recruitment of qualified women.
 - advancement and tenure in academic positions.
 - admissions to graduate schools.
 - graduate and postdoctoral fellowships and assistantships.
 - membership on advisory boards and panels; and
- the Society will include more women on

- Society programs and panels, including invited speakers and section chairmen.
- Society committees and governing boards.

The Council of August 29, 1972 instructed the Secretary to call part two of the resolution regularly to the attention of individuals in charge of various parts of Society programs.

The Secretary proposes to do this by distributing this sheet from time to time as follows:

Colloquium Editorial Committee
 Committee on Summer Institutes
 Committee on Applied Mathematics
 Organizing Committees for Institutes, Seminars, and Symposia
 Associate Secretaries

He asks in turn that the Associate Secretaries see that their Section Program Committee and the organizers of informal sessions and chairmen of invited twenty minute papers receive copies.

Miscellaneous Information

The business of this committee can be done by mail, electronic mail, or telephone, expenses which may be reimbursed by the Society. An explanation of travel expense reimbursement of volunteers for this committee is attached. This committee has been designated at **LEVEL F**.

A call for nominations should be published in the two issues of the *Notices* prior to the committee's deadline. It should look something like this:

**Call for Nominations
for
Veblen Prize**

The Selection Committee for the Veblen Prize requests nominations for consideration for the 20xx Award. The Veblen Prize is awarded every three years at the Joint Annual Mathematics Meeting. The award is made for a notable research memoir in geometry or topology which has appeared in the last six years. Either the recipient is a member of the Society or the Memoir is published in a recognized North American journal.

Nominations, with supporting information should be sent to (Secretary, mailing address)

The deadline for nominations is _____.

Note to the Chair

Committee chairs should be informed, at the beginning of each fiscal period, the budget of their committees and cautioned to remain within the budget. Such items as travel reimbursement to, accommodations for, and meals for guests of any kind fall within these budgets.

Work done by committees on recurring problems may have value as precedent or work done may have historical interest. Because of this, the Council has requested that a central file system be maintained for the Society by the Secretary. Committees are reminded that a copy of every sheet of paper should be deposited (say once a year) in this central file. Confidential material should be noted, so that it can be handled in a confidential manner.

Authorization

Prize was established in 1961 by the Trustees.

10/05/89; updated 03/07/91; 12/92; 3/94; 8/94; 5/95; 501;1/08; 8/09

Past Committees

1964 no record
1965-66 Raoul Bott, S S Chern, G T Whyburn
1970-71 Raoul Bott, Morton Brown, Stephen Smale
1975-76 Shiing S Chern, Robion C Kirby, John W Milnor
1980-81 Raoul H Bott, Eugene Calabi, William Thurston
1985-86 R H Bing, Richard K Lashof, Shing-Tung Yau
1990-02 Edgar H Brown, Jr., Michael H Freedman, Mikhael Gromov
1994-96 Jeff Cheeger, Peter W K Li, Clifford Taubes
1999-01 Mikhael Gromov, Robion Kirby, Gang Tian
2003-04 Andrew Casson, Yakov Eliashberg, John W. Morgan
2006-08 C. M. Gordon, Michael J. Hopkins, Ronald J. Stern
2009-11 Yakov Flashberg, Bruce Kleiner, Peter S. Ozsvath

Past Winners

1964	Christos D. Papkyriakopolous	1981	Shing-Tung Yau
1964	Raoul H. Bott	1986	Michael H. Freedman
1966	Stephen Smale	1991	Andrew J. Casson
1966	Morton Brown	1991	Clifford H. Taubes
1966	Barry Mazur	1996	Richard Hamilton and Gang Tian
1971	Robion C. Kirby	2001	Jeff Cheeger, Yakov Eliashberg and Michael J. Hopkins
1971	Dennis P. Sullivan	2004	David Gabai
1976	William P. Thurston	2007	Peter Kronheimer, Tomasz Mrowka, Peter Ozsváth and Zoltán Szabó
1976	James Simons		
1981	Mikhael Gromov		