
Mathematics Opportunities

Short Course on Mathematics and Molecular Biology

The Program in Mathematics and Molecular Biology (PMMB) at the University of California, Berkeley, will conduct an introductory short course on research, training, and career opportunities at the interface between mathematics and molecular biology. Supported by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund Interfaces Program, the course will run June 22–July 3, 1998, at UC Berkeley.

The goal of the short course is to encourage promising students from the physical, chemical, and mathematical sciences to apply their unique knowledge and talents to biological problems. Full support (travel and living expenses) is available for selected students in the physical/chemical/mathematical sciences who are in residence at universities in the United States and Canada. Upper-level undergraduates and graduate students are invited to apply. The short course will include introductory lectures, laboratory and computer experiences, and discussion groups.

The topics and teachers include: Modern Genome Analysis (P.O. Brown, Stanford University; S. J. Spengler, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory; M. S. Waterman, University of Southern California); Nucleic Acid Structure and Topology (N. R. Cozzarelli, UC Berkeley; L. Kauffman, University of Illinois at Chicago; D. W. Sumners, Florida State University; I. Tinoco, UC Berkeley); Protein Structure and Folding (B. Berger, MIT; C. Brooks, Scripps Research Institute; M. Levitt, Stanford University; J. Onuchic, UC San Diego; A. Sali, Rockefeller University); and Quantitative Analysis of Evolution (T. Speed, UC Berkeley; E. Thompson, University of Washington).

For information and application materials, contact: PMMB, Department of Mathematics, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4510; telephone 850-644-8710; fax 850-644-6612; e-mail: pmb@math.fsu.edu; World Wide Web: <http://www.math.fsu.edu/~pmb/>. The deadline for receipt of applications is **April 1, 1998**. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

—PMMB Announcement

Postdoctoral Grants at Mittag-Leffler

The Mittag-Leffler Institute has announced a number of grants for the year 1998–99. The program of the Institute starts on September 1 and ends on May 31. The grants are intended for recent Ph.D.s or advanced graduate students and amount to 12,000 Swedish crowns (about US\$1,550) per month. Preference will be given to applications for longer stays, either for one semester or for the whole year.

The subject for 1998–99 is “Topology and Geometry of Quantum Fields”. The following experts have already agreed to take part in the program for an extended period: S. Akbulut, V. I. Arnold, J. Birman, A. Carey, A. Dzhumadilidze, M. Flato, K. Fredenhagen, D. Freed, M.-L. Ge, V. Goryunov, H.-P. Jakobsen, V. Kac, T. Le, G. Mikhalkin, H. Morton, H. Murakami, J. Murakami, T. Ohtsuki, D. Pickrell, M. Polyak, S. Rajeev, J. Råde, G. Thompson, M. Wodzicki. The program committee consists of Jouko Mickelsson, Antti Niemi, Oleg Viro, and Torsten Ekedahl.

In order to be considered for one of these grants, an applicant must fulfill the following conditions: (1) his or her

research interest must fall within the area of the program; (2) he or she must be either an advanced graduate student or a recent Ph.D. (no more than 5 (five) years after the degree at the start of the program September 1, 1998); (3) the paper version of his or her application and letters of recommendation *must* reach the Board of the Institute before **March 31, 1998**. Final decisions are made around April 20, 1998.

Inquiries may be directed to any of the following individuals: Kjell-Ove Widman, Mittag-Leffler Institute, Auravägen 17, S-182 62 Djursholm, Sweden, e-mail: widman@m1.kva.se; Jouko Mickelsson, Department of Theoretical Physics, KTH, S-100 44 Stockholm, Sweden, e-mail: jouko@theophys.kth.se; Antti Niemi, Department of Theoretical Physics, University of Uppsala, Box 803, S-751 08 Uppsala, Sweden, e-mail: Antti.Niemi@teorfys.uu.se; Oleg Viro, Department of Mathematics, University of Uppsala, Box 480, S-751 06 Uppsala, Sweden, e-mail: Oleg.Viro@math.uu.se.

For application forms, write to: Mittag-Leffler Institute, Auravägen 17, S-182 62 Djursholm, Sweden. The World Wide Web site for the Institute is found at <http://www.m1.kva.se/>.

—*from Mittag-Leffler Announcement*

Maria Mitchell Women in Science Award

The Maria Mitchell Association is establishing an annual award to honor an individual or organization that encourages girls and women to pursue studies and careers in science and technology. Maria Mitchell (1818–1889) was the first woman astronomer and first woman astronomy professor in the U.S.

The award may be given in the natural and physical sciences, mathematics, engineering, computer science, and technology. The winner will be chosen by a national jury of distinguished educators and scientists and will receive a cash award of \$5,000. Funding for the award is provided by the Kenan Foundation through the year 2000.

The deadline for submission of nominations is **March 15, 1998**. For further information and a nomination application, contact: Maria Mitchell Association, 2 Vestal Street, Nantucket, MA 02554; telephone 508-228-9198; World Wide Web <http://www.mmo.org/>.

—*from Maria Mitchell Association Announcement*

Project NExT 1998–1999

Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) is a program for new or recent Ph.D.s in the mathematical sciences who are interested in improving the teaching and learning of undergraduate mathematics. Faculty who are just beginning or just completing their first year of full-time teaching at the college/university level are invited to apply to

become Project NExT fellows. The first event for the 1998–1999 fellows will be a workshop, July 13–15, 1998, just prior to the Mathfest, the summer meeting of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), in Toronto, Canada, July 16–18, 1998.

At this workshop and at Project NExT sessions during the Mathfest, fellows will explore and discuss a broad range of issues that are of special relevance to beginning faculty, including: new approaches to teaching calculus and precalculus; alternative methods of teaching and assessing student learning; using technology in the classroom; perspectives from pedagogical research; writing grant proposals; and balancing teaching and research. The fellows will also have an opportunity to meet and interact with fellows who began the program in previous years.

Invited speakers include: Gerald Alexanderson, Santa Clara University, MAA President; Lloyd Douglas, National Science Foundation; Joseph Gallian, University of Minnesota, Duluth; Anita Solow, DePauw University; Steven Dunbar, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; Glenda Lappan, Michigan State University; and Morton Brown, University of Michigan.

Following the workshop, Project NExT fellows will attend the Mathfest, participating in all the opportunities of that meeting, and choose among special short courses designed for the fellows. During the following academic year, fellows will participate in a network that links fellows with one another and with distinguished teachers of mathematics, special events at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Antonio (January 13–16, 1999), and a second workshop in the summer of 1999.

Approximately sixty Project NExT fellows will be selected for the 1998–1999 year. Funding for room and board at the workshop in Toronto and for the short courses at the summer 1998 Mathfest will be provided for participants. Institutions employing the fellows are expected to provide financial assistance for travel and attendance at the national meetings. Limited funds are available to assist those institutions that are unable to afford full or partial support.

Application forms and a letter of support from one's department chair must be sent by **March 27, 1998**. Applicants will be notified by May 15, 1998, whether they have been selected as fellows. (Because the workshop is earlier this year, Project NExT organizers had to make the deadline earlier than in past years. If you would still like to apply and the March 27 deadline has passed, please contact the organizers to see if space is still available.)

Applications and further information may be obtained by writing to: James R. C. Leitzel, Department of Mathematics, University of New Hampshire, Kingsbury Hall, Durham, NH 03824; telephone 603-862-4546; e-mail: jrc1@christa.unh.edu. Project NExT is sponsored by the MAA, with partial support from the Exxon Education Foundation.

—*Project NExT Announcement*