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# For Your Information

## 2000 BMS Chairs' Colloquium

On November 10–11, 2000, the Board on Mathematical Sciences (BMS) of the National Research Council will hold its 15th annual colloquium for chairs of college and university mathematics and statistics departments. The colloquium will be held at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC. As in past years, this meeting provides an opportunity for department chairs to share experiences and ideas for addressing stresses that affect many departments. A special theme this year is building relationships beyond the boundary of the department.

Rita Colwell, director of the National Science Foundation, will give the keynote address on the morning of November 10. The remainder of the meeting includes a mix of plenary and break-out sessions aimed at sharing insights on a variety of topics, including: the 1999 AMS report, *Towards Excellence*; managing interdisciplinary activities, on- and off-campus; evaluation of faculty performance; professional master's degrees; K-14 education; fundraising; and case studies on growing or rebuilding departments.

Chairpersons who attend will also have an opportunity to learn about federal funding initiatives and policy changes that affect their departments.

A brochure with registration form was mailed in August 2000 to each four-year U.S. mathematics and statistics department. The agenda is available online at <http://www.nas.edu/bms/>. The registration fee for the colloquium is \$185. For further information contact the BMS by telephone at 202-334-2421 or by e-mail at [bms@nas.edu](mailto:bms@nas.edu). The postal address is: Board on Mathematical Sciences, National Research Council, Room HA476U, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20418.

—BMS announcement

## Project Euclid: Online Mathematics Library

Cornell University Library is the recipient of a \$750,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for a three-year project to create an online repository for mathematics and statistics publications. The primary mission of "Project Euclid" is to support the transition of independent mathematics and statistics journals to the online environment.

Independent journals have long been important as an affordable means of disseminating research in theoretical and applied mathematics and statistics. The majority of these journals, however, have faced economic tensions and technical hurdles in making a transition to a Web-based publication. Project Euclid will help publishers of independent mathematics journals by creating an infrastructure that will empower them to publish on the Web, create economies of scale, and increase their visibility by a combined online presence.

In Project Euclid, Cornell University Library (CUL) is collaborating with Duke University Press to set up an online repository—a virtual "one-stop" Web site where researchers and scholars will be able to access dozens of important titles in mathematics and statistics. The Euclid site represents a new model of scholarly communication, as it will support the entire span of scholarly publishing from preprints to the distribution of published journals. Project Euclid will also provide journal editors with a unique set of Web-based publishing tools that will enable them to streamline their editorial and peer-review processes and publish in a more timely and cost-effective manner.

Duke University Press publishes two leading mathematics journals, the *Duke Mathematical Journal* and *International Mathematics Research Notices*. CUL, one of the ten largest academic research libraries in the United States, is internationally recognized for its innovation, rapid progress, and expertise in digital library initiatives.

Among its many digitization projects, CUL has identified electronic projects in support of mathematics as a top priority. Nearly ten years ago 571 seminal mathematics works in the public domain from the CUL collection were digitized in a pioneering imaging project. Scholars and researchers around the world have used the information on the Math Books Collection Web site (<http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/cdl-math-browse.html>) and have ordered printed and bound copies of these books.

At Cornell, Project Euclid is managed by Zsuzsa Koltay, the library's coordinator of electronic publishing. For more information about Project Euclid, visit <http://euclid.library.cornell.edu/project/>, or contact Zsuzsa Koltay at 607-255-7964; e-mail: [zk10@cornell.edu](mailto:zk10@cornell.edu).

—From a Cornell University news release

## Quiz Celebrates World Mathematical Year 2000

Maths Quiz 2000 (MQ2000) is a contest to be played on the Internet as part of the World Mathematical Year 2000 celebration. The quiz is organized by the Centre de Recerca Matemàtica in Barcelona, Spain, with the sponsorship and technical support of Sun Microsystems, the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, and Birkhäuser Publishers.

MQ2000 is intended for people with higher mathematical training, from students in their final year of university mathematics studies to professional mathematicians. To participate, one needs an Internet connection, but otherwise participation is free. It is recommended that players have a mathematics library at their disposal and that they form teams. The quiz will take place over 24 hours, starting at 12:00 GMT on October 17, 2000.

Here are three sample questions: 1) What is the maximum number of orthonormal vector fields on the 139263-dimensional sphere? 2) If a plane sextic has no singularities except for 9 cusps, how many double tangents does it have? 3) On August 21, 1947, two highly ranked climbers achieved the first ascent of the south face of the Bietschhorn, a high and difficult mountain in the Swiss alps. One of these climbers was an excellent mathematician, known around the world. In which year did he read his doctoral thesis?

Prizes will be given for the highest-scoring solutions. For more information on MQ2000, visit the Web site <http://www.mq2000.org/mq2000/>.

—Allyn Jackson

## Correction to September Commentary

An incorrect percentage was quoted in “Time to Move Mountains” in the September 2000 “Commentary”, page 853. The correct statement is that eighty percent of married women mathematicians are married to other scientists.

—Susan Landau