
For Your Information

Proof Playwright Wins Pulitzer

DAVID AUBURN, author of the Broadway hit *Proof*, won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for drama. The play has four characters, three of whom are mathematicians, and the plot centers on a mystery about the author of a certain mathematical proof. The play opened to wide acclaim in New York City in May 2000 and moved to Broadway in October of that year. A review appeared in the October 2000 issue of the *Notices*, pages 1082–84. To mark the awarding of the Pulitzer, this issue of the *Notices* carries a new review (pages 596–597).

David Auburn, 31 years old, lives in Williamstown, Massachusetts. He is the recipient of a number of awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship. He is a graduate of the playwrighting program at the Juilliard School.

—Allyn Jackson

Call for Mathematician Mentors

Making Mathematics is a National Science Foundation-funded program that pairs mathematicians with secondary students and teachers to work on research-like problems in mathematics.

This program stems from years of work in schools, in which students get involved with mathematics projects that provide genuine research experiences. Making Mathematics is based on the belief that, while frontline mathematical research problems are out of reach for non-specialists, the methods used by research mathematicians are accessible to almost all young people. Developing the habits of mind used by working scientists and mathematicians is of immense and lasting value to all students, no matter what they do with their lives.

This kind of work is unfamiliar to many students and teachers. That is why the involvement of mathematicians

as online mentors to students and their teachers is essential to the program. A mentor's role is to help students and teachers ask themselves the right questions, point them to available resources, help them build their mathematical background when necessary, and help them navigate their path through the problem-solving and research process.

Making Mathematics is seeking mathematicians—college and university faculty, mathematically educated professionals involved in various technical/professional fields, and mathematics graduate students—to apply to become mentors. Mentors exchange e-mail with students and/or teachers approximately once a week for a span of approximately 3 to 6 months and assist with the process of conducting mathematics research. The project supports a mentor training program as well as materials and resources to help mentors acclimate to online mathematical communication with teachers and students.

There are many ways mathematicians can contribute to K–12 education, but working with an eager student on a mathematical problem of substance is one of the most rewarding and important. The project Web site and materials are designed, maintained, and facilitated by staff from the Center for Mathematics Education at Education Development Center, Inc. For more information visit <http://www2.edc.org/makingmath/>, send e-mail to dms@edc.org, or contact Jean Benson, Making Mathematics, Education Development Center, Inc., 55 Chapel Street, Newton, MA 02458; telephone 617-969-7100.

—Educational Development Center announcement

45th Reunion Conference for Ross Program

On July 27–29, 2001, a reunion conference celebrating the 45th year of the Ross Summer Mathematics Program will be held at the Ohio State University. The program, begun

by Arnold E. Ross in 1957, brings together some of the most mathematically talented students in the U.S. for eight intensive weeks of mathematical discovery. The conference will be a time for friends of Ross, now 94 years old, and alumni of his program to renew contact and to celebrate the ongoing mission of the Ross Program.

The conference will feature scientific lectures on a variety of topics, some of them geared to current participants in the Ross Program. Capping the conference will be a banquet sponsored by the Clay Mathematics Institute, which has worked in partnership with the Ross Program for the past two years.

More information about the Ross Reunion Conference is available on the Web site <http://www.math.ohio-state.edu/ross/rossconf2001.html>.

—Allyn Jackson

Undergraduate Paper Competitions in *Cryptologia*

Two undergraduate paper competitions have been announced, each with a \$300 cash prize and publication in *Cryptologia*, a refereed journal. Both the Annual Undergraduate Paper Competition in Cryptology and the Annual Greg Mellen Memorial Cryptology Scholarship Prize are sponsored by *Cryptologia* to encourage the study of all aspects of cryptology in the undergraduate curricula.

The topics of the papers may be in any area of cryptology—technical, historical, and literary subjects. Papers must be no more than 20 typewritten pages in length, double spaced, and fully referenced. Four copies must be submitted. Authors should keep one copy. Papers are to be original works that have not been published previously.

The closing date for both competitions is **December 31** for the year of entry. The winner(s) will be announced on April 1, with publication of the winning paper in a later issue of *Cryptologia*. Papers will be judged by the editors of *Cryptologia*. The address for further information or to make submissions is: *Cryptologia*, Department of Mathematical Sciences, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY 10996; e-mail: Cryptologia@usma.edu; World Wide Web: <http://www.dean.usma.edu/math/resource/pubs/crypto/index.htm>.

—From a *Cryptologia* announcement

Volunteers Sought for AWM Essay Contest

To increase awareness of women's contributions to the mathematical sciences, the Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) is sponsoring a student essay contest. Contestants will write biographical essays of contemporary women mathematicians and statisticians in academic, industrial, and government careers. The essays will be

based on personal interviews conducted by the contestants with professional women in the mathematical sciences.

The contest is open to students in the following categories: middle school, high school, undergraduate, and graduate. At least one winning entry will be chosen from each category. Winners will receive a prize, and their essays will be published online at the AWM Web site. A grand prize winner will have his or her entry published in the AWM newsletter as well. The deadline for entries is **November 1, 2001**.

The AWM is seeking women mathematicians to volunteer to be interviewed for these essays. For more information see the AWM Web site, <http://www.awm-math.org/biographies/contest.html>, or send e-mail to the contest organizer, Victoria Howle, at vehowle@sandia.gov.

—From an AWM announcement

Corrections

The April 2001 issue of the *Notices* carried an announcement about the 2001 Satter Prize. The announcement misstated the amount of the prize; the correct amount is \$4,000.

In the announcement in the April 2001 issue of the award of the 2001 Veblen Prize to Jeff Cheeger, Yakov Eliashberg, and Michael J. Hopkins, the response from Cheeger was not faithfully reproduced from the version distributed on January 11, 2001, at the prize ceremony at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in New Orleans. In particular, in the third paragraph “the splitting theorem and volume cone imply the metric cone theorem” should have read “the splitting theorem and volume cone implies metric cone theorem”; in the fourth paragraph “conjectures of Anderson's and mine” should have read “conjectures of Anderson and myself”; and in the fifth paragraph “one could do index theory L_2 -cohomology on singular spaces” should have read “one could do index theory for L_2 -cohomology on singular spaces.”