
For Your Information

Photos from Fine Hall

"Fine Hall in the Early 60s" is a website containing a collection of photos taken at Fine Hall, home of the mathematics department of Princeton University. Over seventy mathematicians are depicted in the candid photos, which were taken by Jay Goldman of the University of Minnesota. The URL is <http://www.math.sunysb.edu/~tony/album/finehall10.html>.

—*Allyn Jackson*

IMU Launches Math-Net

In April 2002 the International Mathematical Union (IMU) released Math-Net, a worldwide electronic information and communication system for mathematics (see <http://www.math-net.org/>).

Why is Math-Net needed? Today almost every mathematics department or research institute offers information online. But the content, structure, and presentation of these pages vary widely, making it difficult for users to navigate and find information. Math-Net has been developed as an alternative, effective way for academic departments and research institutes to present structured basic information about themselves and their programs consistently. Math-Net has been designed to facilitate access to high quality mathematical information worldwide, both by human users and search engines.

A special feature of Math-Net is the Math-Net Page, a web gate for mathematics departments and institutes that presents information in a standardized, well-structured, and easy-to-use format.

The Math-Net Page is an additional entry point to institutional information, immediately accessible from the department's homepage, and not meant to replace it. Using this secondary homepage, mathematicians, scientists, students, and the news media can easily find relevant

data, such as staff, student programs, colloquia, seminars, and publications.

The Math-Net Page is an enhanced version of a webpage that originated in a project in Germany that was targeted at establishing a nationwide information and communication system for mathematics departments. A tool for creating Math-Net pages as well as assistance are available at no charge at http://www.math-net.org/Math-Net_Page_Help.html. Mathematics departments around the world are currently beginning to set up Math-Net Pages.

The Math-Net Pages are collected by the Math-Net service NAVIGATOR (<http://www.math-net.org/navigator/>), which gathers the local information and makes it globally available. Other services of this type are MPRESS (<http://mathnet.preprints.org/>), which collects information about mathematical preprints, and PERSONA MATHEMATICA (http://www.mi.uni-koeln.de/Math-Net/persona_mathematica/), a search engine for mathematical researchers.

Math-Net aims at paving the way towards open and free exchange of information within and for the international mathematics community. In May 2000 the IMU adopted the Math-Net Charter (see <http://www.math-net.org/Charter/>). The IMU's Committee on Electronic Information and Communication (CEIC) has issued a recommendation that universities and institutes worldwide install the Math-Net Page.

—*IMU News Release*

New Zealand Institute Launched

On March 6, 2002, the formation of five Centers of Research Excellence was announced by the New Zealand government. The New Zealand Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (NZIMA) was one of the five successful centers. In addition, one of the other centers, the Allan Wilson

Center for Molecular Ecology and Evolution, has a major biomathematics component.

The NZIMA is based at the University of Auckland and headed by Vaughan Jones of the University of California, Berkeley, and Marston Conder of the University of Auckland. It will be modeled on similar mathematical research institutes, notably the Fields Institute in Toronto, Canada; the Instituto de Matemática Pura e Aplicada in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute in Berkeley; and the Isaac Newton Institute in Cambridge, UK. The NZIMA will emphasize world-class research and the use of high-level mathematical techniques in modern application areas such as bioengineering, bioinformatics, medical statistics, operations research, and risk assessment.

The objectives of the NZIMA are to (1) create and sustain a critical mass of researchers in concentrations of excellence in mathematics and statistics and their applications, (2) provide New Zealand with a source of high-level quantitative expertise across a range of areas, (3) act as a facilitator of access to new developments internationally in the mathematical sciences, and (4) raise the level of knowledge and skills in the mathematical sciences in New Zealand.

The NZIMA is expected to open for business later in 2002. Its key activities will include: the organization of two six-month programs each year on themes drawn from a range of fields; an associated workshop held at various locations around New Zealand; scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships in the theme areas; and annual Maclaurin Fellowships to enable mathematical scientists from New Zealand or worldwide to take time out from their usual occupations and undertake full-time research in New Zealand (or partly overseas if based in New Zealand).

The Maclaurin Fellowships are named in honor of Richard Cockburn Maclaurin, who was a graduate of Auckland University College. He went on to study at Cambridge, where he won the Smith Prize in Mathematics and Yorke Prize in Law, and was appointed as Foundation Professor of Mathematics at Victoria University College in 1899 and later dean of law and professor of astronomy. In 1908 he was invited to become president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he helped transform that institution into the world-class research-based technological university it is today.

The Allan Wilson Center for Molecular Ecology and Evolution will be hosted by Massey University and directed by professors David Penny (biology) and Michael Hendy (mathematics). The center's vision is to utilize the network of outstanding New Zealand biologists and mathematicians who have made significant contributions to developing new analytical methods and techniques in this area, to address some of the fundamental questions about New Zealand's plant and animal life. A significant degree of collaboration with the NZIMA in areas of biomathematics and bioinformatics is anticipated.

—From an announcement by Rod Downey, president,
New Zealand Mathematical Society

Correction

My review of the movie *A Beautiful Mind* (*Notices*, April 2002, pages 455–7) reads: “I wonder at Crowe’s visually informed intelligence. What inspired him in the fall of 2000 as he watched a Rademacher lecture alone at the back of the hall?...” In fact, it was Nash, not Crowe, who attended the Rademacher lecture. Crowe was in Australia on September 18, 2000.

—Lynne M. Butler

Correction

Listed in the category of “Gifts in Honor of” in the “American Mathematical Society—Contributions” (May 2002, page 587) was an incorrectly spelled name. The name listed should have been H. F. Bohnenblust.