
Mathematics People

PECASE Awards Announced

Fifty-six young researchers were chosen to receive the 2005 Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). This award is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on outstanding young scientists, mathematicians, and engineers who are in the early stages of establishing their independent research careers. JONATHAN C. MATTINGLY of Duke University was selected for his work in developing mathematical tools that include the effects of randomness in studying models of complex systems.

The recipients were selected from nominations made by eight participating federal agencies. Each awardee receives a five-year grant ranging from US\$400,000 to nearly US\$1 million to further his or her research and educational efforts.

—From an NSF announcement

MAA Writing Awards Presented

The Mathematical Association of America (MAA) presented several awards for excellence in expository writing at its Summer Mathfest in Knoxville, Tennessee, in August 2006.

The Trevor Evans Award is given to authors of expository articles that are accessible to undergraduates and that were published in *Math Horizons*. This prize carries a cash award of US\$250. The 2006 prizes were awarded to RONALD BARNES and LINDA BECERRA of the University of Houston for their joint article “The evolution of mathematical certainty”, *Math Horizons*, September 2005, and to STUART BOERSMA of Central Washington University for “A mathematician’s look at Foucault’s Pendulum”, *Math Horizons*, February 2005.

The George Pólya Award is given for articles published in *The College Mathematics Journal* and has a cash prize of US\$500. The awardees for 2006 are EZRA BROWN of Virginia Tech for “Phoebe floats!”, *College Mathematics Journal*, March 2005, and JAMES SANDEFUR of Georgetown University for “A geometric series from tennis”, *College Mathematics Journal*, May 2005.

The Carl B. Allendoerfer Award is given for articles published in *Mathematics Magazine* and carries a cash award of US\$500. The 2006 awardees are ROBB T. KOETHER and JOHN K. OSOINACH JR. of Hampden-Sydney College for

their joint article “Outwitting the lying oracle”, *Mathematics Magazine*, vol. 78, no. 2, 2005, and JEFF SUZUKI of Brooklyn College for “The lost calculus (1637–1670): Tangency and optimization without limits”, *Mathematics Magazine*, vol. 78, no. 5, 2005.

The Lester R. Ford Award honors articles published in *The American Mathematical Monthly* and carries a cash prize of US\$500. The 2006 awardees are IBTESAM BAJUNAID of King Saud University, JOEL M. COHEN of the University of Maryland, FLAVIA COLONNA of George Mason University, and DAVID SINGMAN of George Mason University for their joint article “Function series, Catalan numbers, and random walks on trees”, *Monthly*, November 2005; VIKTOR BLASJÖ of Marlboro College for “The evolution of the isoperimetric problem”, *Monthly*, June–July 2005; EDWARD B. BURGER of Williams College for “A tail of two palindromes”, *Monthly*, April 2005; KARL DILCHER of Dalhousie University and KENNETH B. STOLARSKY of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, for their joint article “A Pascal-type triangle characterizing twin primes”, *Monthly*, October 2005; and WILLIAM DUNHAM of Muhlenberg College for “Touring the calculus gallery”, *Monthly*, January 2005.

A new prize, the Annie and John Selden Prize for Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education, honors a researcher who has established a significant record of published research in undergraduate mathematics. The 2006 prize was awarded to CHRIS RASMUSSEN of San Diego State University.

The Henry L. Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member honors a beginning college or university teacher whose teaching has been extraordinarily successful and whose effectiveness in teaching undergraduate mathematics is shown to have influence beyond his or her own classroom. The 2006 awardees are GERIKAI (KAI) CAMPBELL of Swarthmore College, CHRISTOPHER N. SWANSON of Ashland University, and LESLEY WARD of Harvey Mudd College.

—From an MAA announcement

NSF Postdoctoral Fellowships Awarded

The Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowship program of the Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS) of the National Science Foundation (NSF) awards

fellowships each year for postdoctoral research in pure mathematics, applied mathematics and operations research, and statistics. Following are the names of the fellowship recipients for 2006, together with their Ph.D. institutions (in parentheses) and the institutions at which they will use their fellowships.

DANIEL ABRAMS (Cornell University), Massachusetts Institute of Technology; NATHAN L. ALBIN (University of Utah), University of Maryland, College Park; PEDRO ALBIN (Stanford University), Massachusetts Institute of Technology; DREW D. ARMSTRONG (Cornell University), University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; JAYADEV S. ATHREYA (University of Chicago), Yale University; MICHAEL F. BARAD (University of California, Davis), Stanford University; MARGARET A. BECK (Boston University), University of Surrey; OREN BEN-BASSAT (University of Pennsylvania), Columbia University; NICHOLAS K. ERIKSSON (University of California, Berkeley), Stanford University; TALIA FERNOS (University of Illinois, Chicago), University of California, Los Angeles; JULIA E. GRIGSBY (University of California, Berkeley), Columbia University; MICHAEL N. GURSKI (University of Chicago), Yale University; LAWRENCE D. GUTH (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Stanford University; AARON D. HOFFMAN (Brown University), Boston University; PAUL M. JENKINS (University of Wisconsin, Madison), University of California, Los Angeles; JESSE JOHNSON (University of California, Davis), Yale University; RICHARD P. KENT (University of Texas, Austin), Brown University; ROBERT LIPSHITZ (Stanford University), Columbia University; SARAH K. MASON (University of Pennsylvania), University of California, Berkeley; KELLY L. MCKINNIE (University of Texas, Austin), Emory University; KARIN H. MELNICK (University of Chicago), Yale University; ROBERT W. NEEL (Harvard University), Columbia University; JAMES H. NOLEN (University of Texas, Austin), Stanford University; WILLIAM R. OTT (University of Maryland, College Park), Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University; JESSE D. PETERSON (University of California, Los Angeles), University of California, Berkeley; ARJUN RAJ (Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University), Massachusetts Institute of Technology; BENJAMIN I. SCHMIDT (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), University of Chicago; SHAWN C. SHADDEN (California Institute of Technology), Stanford University; ROBERT M. STRAIN (Brown University), Harvard University; CHRIS M. WENDL (New York University), Massachusetts Institute of Technology; BENJAMIN D. WIELAND (University of Chicago), Brown University.

—NSF announcement

Zoller Awarded 2006 Dirac Medal

PETER ZOLLER of the University of Innsbruck and the Austrian Academy of Sciences has been awarded the Dirac Medal for 2006 by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP). Zoller was honored for his “innovative and prolific accomplishments in atomic

physics, including his seminal work in proposing methods to use trapped ions for quantum computing and describing how to realize the Bose-Hubbard model and associated phase transitions in ultracold gases.”

The ICTP awarded its first Dirac Medal in 1985. Given in honor of P. A. M. Dirac, the medal is awarded annually on Dirac’s birthday, August 8, to an individual or individuals who have made significant contributions to theoretical physics and mathematics. The medalists also receive a prize of US\$5,000. An international committee of distinguished scientists selects the winners from a list of nominated candidates. The Dirac Medal is not awarded to Nobel laureates, Fields Medalists, or Wolf Foundation Prize winners.

—From an ICTP announcement

European Mathematical Society Article Competition

The European Mathematical Society (EMS), through its Committee for Raising Public Awareness of Mathematics (RPA), has announced the winners of its article competition for 2005. Articles appearing in newspapers or other general-interest magazines in the authors’ home countries were eligible.

F. THOMAS BRUSS of Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium, was awarded first prize for his article “Die Kunst der richtigen Entscheidung”, published in the magazine *Spektrum der Wissenschaft* (*Scientific American*, German edition), June 2005, and in *Pour La Science* (*Scientific American*, French edition), September 2005.

TOM M. APOSTOL of the California Institute of Technology was awarded second prize for his article “A visual approach to calculus problems”, published in the magazine *Engineering and Science*, California Institute of Technology, 2000; the article is available at the website http://pr.caltech.edu/periodicals/EandS/archives/LXIII_3.html.

HANSJÖRG GEIGES of the Mathematisches Institut, Universität Köln, Germany, received third prize for his article “Christiaan Huygens and contact geometry”, published in the Dutch magazine *Nieuw Archief voor Wiskunde* in 2005. The article is available at <http://www.mi.uni-koeln.de/~geiges/naw05.pdf>.

Editor’s Note:

Because of incorrect information received by the *Notices*, an out-of-date announcement about this competition appeared in the September 2006 issue. We regret the error.

—From International Mathematical Union email newsletter