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# For Your Information

## Statement on $E_8$ Read in Congress

On March 27, 2007, Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-Calif.) read a statement to Congress about the mapping of the exceptional Lie group  $E_8$ . The text of the statement follows.

“The American Institute of Mathematics, MIT, Cornell University, University of Michigan, University of Utah, and University of Maryland together created a mathematical breakthrough this week made possible by congressional support of the National Science Foundation. The breakthrough involves defining the detailed structure of a geometric object called  $E_8$ , the largest of the exceptional Lie Groups used to study symmetry.  $E_8$ , one of the most complicated structures ever studied, is a 248-dimensional Lie Group used to explore the symmetries of a 57-dimensional object. Mapping out such an object is a magnificent achievement of the human mind. Connections between  $E_8$  and string theory indicate that physical applications of  $E_8$  will eventually emerge. The participants are to be commended for their work that has expanded the limits of human knowledge and brings hitherto unknown beauty and power to our human condition.”

McNerney, who was elected to Congress in the fall of 2006, holds a Ph.D. in mathematics. His remarks came after the mapping of  $E_8$  made headlines worldwide. For a sampling of the media coverage, visit the AMS Math Digest, <http://www.ams.org/mathmedia/mathdigest>, and go to the archive for March 2007. For more information on  $E_8$ , visit the website <http://aimath.org/E8/> at the American Institute of Mathematics.

—Allyn Jackson

## Lenstra Appointed ICM-2010 Program Committee Chair

Hendrik W. Lenstra has been appointed chair of the Program Committee of the International Congress of Mathematicians in Hyderabad, India, August 19–27, 2010, by L. Lovasz, president of the International Mathematical Union. His coordinates are as follows: Hendrik W. Lenstra, Mathematisch Instituut, Universiteit Leiden, Postbus 9512, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands; email: [hw1icm@math.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:hw1icm@math.leidenuniv.nl). Proposals concerning the scientific program of ICM 2010 may be sent to Lenstra by email.

—International Mathematical Union announcement

## New Director for CRM Barcelona

At its March 2007 meeting, the governing board of the Centre de Recerca Matemàtica (CRM) appointed Joaquim Bruna as CRM director. Bruna, a professor at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, succeeds Manuel Castellet, who now holds the post of honorary director. The CRM was founded in 1984 by Castellet, who had served as director until Bruna's appointment.

Sponsored by the Institut d'Estudis Catalans and the Catalan government, the CRM is located on the campus of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, which is in Bellaterra, a suburb of Barcelona. The CRM invites outstanding mathematicians for research visits; facilitates scientific contacts between visitors and young local researchers; carries out research programs; and organizes talks, conferences, advanced courses, seminars, and other scientific meetings. It also makes available research results through its publications. For further information visit the CRM website at <http://www.crm.cat>.

—Allyn Jackson

## NUMB3RS Receives Award

The popular television drama series *NUMB3RS*, about an FBI agent whose mathematician brother helps solve crimes in the Los Angeles area by using mathematical problem-solving techniques, will receive a National Science Board group Public Service Award for 2007, along with the program's cocreators, Nick Falacci and Cheryl Heuton. The series producers have consulted with mathematicians to bring realism and accuracy to the show's stories. Cryptanalysis, probability theory, game theory, decision theory, principal components analysis, multivariate time series analysis, and astrophysics are among the disciplines employed in the series thus far. The National Science Board, the governing body of the National Science Foundation, presents its Public Service Award annually to recognize individuals and organizations for their extraordinary contributions to increase public understanding of science.

—From an NSF news release