# Mathematics People

## Rouquier Awarded Adams Prize

RAPHAËL ROUQUIER of the Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford, has been awarded the 2009 Adams Prize by the University of Cambridge. The selected topic was representation theory. According to the prize citation, "the quality, depth and influence of Professor Rouquier's work is already highly impressive. He has a long list of fundamental results, extending back to the late 1990s, on both the two main areas of representation theory: representations of general finite-dimensional algebras and derived categories and representations of Lie groups in various forms."

The Adams Prize is awarded each year by the Faculty of Mathematics and St. John's College to a young researcher based in the United Kingdom who is doing first-class international research in the mathematical sciences. The prize is named after the mathematician John Couch Adams and was endowed by members of St. John's College. It is currently worth approximately £13,000 (about US$19,700), of which one-third is awarded to the prizewinner on announcement of the prize, one-third is provided to the prizewinner's institution (for research expenses of the prizewinner), and one-third is awarded to the prizewinner when a substantial (normally at least twenty-five printed pages) original survey article of which the prizewinner is an author has been accepted for publication in an internationally recognized journal.

*—From a University of Cambridge announcement*

## Mueller-Gronbach Awarded 2009 Information-Based Complexity Prize

THOMAS MUELLER-GRONBACH of Université Passau, Germany, has been awarded the 2009 Information-Based Complexity Prize. The prize consists of US$3,000 and a plaque. The award will be presented at the Seminar on Algorithms and Complexity for Continuous Problems, Schloss Dagstuhl, Germany, in September 2009.

This annual prize is given for outstanding contributions to information-based complexity.

*—Joseph Traub, Columbia University*

## National Academy of Sciences Elections

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has announced the election of seventy-two new members and eighteen foreign associates. The new members who work in the mathematical sciences are SUN-YUNG ALICE CHANG, Princeton University; PERCY DEIFT, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University; JOHN E. HOPCROFT, Cornell University; THOMAS J. R. HUGHES, University of Texas, Austin; JOHN W. MORGAN, Columbia University; CHRISTOS C. PAPADIMITRIOU, University of California, Berkeley; GILBERT STRANG, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; CUMRUN VAFA, Harvard University; and WING H. WONG, Stanford University.

*—From an NAS annoucement*

## American Academy Elections

Ten mathematical scientists have been elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. They are: SPENCER J. BLOCH, University of Chicago; ROBERT A. FEFFERMAN, University of Chicago; DORIAN GOLDFELD, Columbia University; DOUGLAS R. HOFSTADTER, Indiana University; MARIA KLAWE, Harvey Mudd College; STANLEY J. OSHER, University of California, Los Angeles; MICHAEL SIPSER, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; TERENCE TAO, University of California, Los Angeles; GUNTHER UHLMANN, University of Washington; and RUTH J. WILLIAMS, University of California, San Diego.

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences was founded in 1780 to foster the development of knowledge as a means of promoting the public interest and social

progress. The membership of the academy is elected and represents distinction and achievement in a range of intellectual disciplines—mathematical and physical sciences, biological sciences, social arts and sciences, and humanities and fine arts.

*—From an AAAS announcement*

# Cortes and Vapnik Receive ACM Award

CORINNA CORTES of Google Research and VLADIMIR VAPNIK of the University of London and NEC Laboratories have been awarded the Paris Kanellakis Theory and Practice Award of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). They were recognized "for their revolutionary development of a highly effective algorithm known as Support Vector Machines (SVM), a set of related supervised learning methods used for data classification and regression common in the field of artificial intelligence." Because of their work, "SVM is one of the most frequently used algorithms in machine learning, which is used in medical diagnosis, weather forecasting, and intrusion detection, among many other practical applications."

The Paris Kanellakis Theory and Practice Award honors specific theoretical accomplishments that have had a significant and demonstrable effect on the practice of computing. This award is endowed by contributions from the Kanellakis family, with additional financial support provided by ACM's Special Interest Groups on Algorithms and Computational Theory, on Design Automation, on Management of Data, and on Programming Languages, the ACM SIG Project Fund, and individual contributions.

*—From an ACM announcement*

# USA Mathematical Olympiad

The 2009 USA Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO) was held April 28 and 29, 2009. The students who participated in the Olympiad were selected on the basis of their performances on the American High School and American Invitational Mathematics Examinations. The twelve highest scorers in the USAMO, listed in alphabetical order, were: JOHN BERMAN, Wilmington, North Carolina; SERGEI BERNSTEIN, Belmont, Massachusetts; WENYU CAO, Andover, Massachusetts; ROBIN CHENG, Coquitlam, British Columbia, Canada; VLAD FIROIU, Westford, Massachusetts; ERIC LARSON, Eugene, Oregon; DELONG MENG, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; QINXUAN PAN, Rockville, Maryland; PANUPONG PASUPAT, Deerfield, Massachusetts; TOAN PHAN, Watertown, Connecticut; DAVID RUSH, Exeter, New Hampshire; and DAVID YANG, Walnut, California.

In June the twelve USAMO winners will take the team selection test to qualify for the U.S. team. The six students with the highest combined scores from the test and the USAMO will attend the Mathematical Olympiad Summer Program (MOSP) at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, to train to compete in the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) to be held in Bremen, Germany, July 10– 22, 2009.

*—Elaine Kehoe*

# Moody's Mega Math Challenge Winners Announced

The winners of the 2009 Mega Math Challenge for high school students have been announced. The topic for this year's competition was "$787 Billion: Will the Stimulus Act Stimulate the U.S. Economy?". A team from High Technology High School in Lincroft, New Jersey, was awarded the Summa Cum Laude Team Prize of US$20,000 in scholarship money. The members of the team were STEVE CASTELLANO, ETHAN DALE, JAY FELDMAN, DAN MANE, and MATTHEW WARSHAUER. Their coach was Ellen LeBlanc.

The Magna Cum Laude Team Prize of US$15,000 was awarded to a team from Elk County Catholic High School in St. Marys, Pennsylvania. The team members were JOSHUA CASMIR CATALANO, ERIC HIGGINS, DONALD ANTHONY MEIER, CHARLES HAROLD O'LEARY, and WILLIAM FRANCIES YOST. Their coach was Theodore Hanes.

The Cum Laude Team Prize of US$10,000 was awarded to the Wheeler School in Providence, Rhode Island. The team members were MATT HALPERN, BRETT MUSCO, CHRIS SHAW, KARAN TAKHAR, and ALEX WHEELOCK. They were coached by George Lewis.

A team from Bergen County Academies in Hackensack, New Jersey, won the Meritorious Team Prize of US$7,500. The team members were JOSHUA EISEMAN, PETER HUMANIK, ELAN PAZ KUGELMASS, TAESUP LEE, and JORDAN MOLDOW. They were coached by Elizabeth Casarico.

The Exemplary Team Prize of US$5,000 was awarded to a team from West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North in Plainsboro, New Jersey. The team members were SHIR AHARON, CHRIS BERGMAN, MOYA CHIN, TRACIE KONG, and YUN HUI LIN, and they were coached by John Cornell.

The First Honorable Mention Team Prize of US$2,500 went to a team from Staples High School in Westport, Connecticut. The team members were KYLE BEATTY, JONATHAN CHOI, JASON GANDELMAN, NAVEEN MURALI, and JUSTIN SHERMAN. Their coach was Gertrude Denton.

The Mega Math Challenge invites teams of high school juniors and seniors to solve an open-ended, realistic, challenging modeling problem focused on real-world issues. The top five teams receive awards ranging from US$5,000 to US$20,000 in scholarship money. The competition is sponsored by the Moody's Foundation, a charitable foundation established by Moody's Corporation, and organized by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM).

*—Elaine Kehoe*