Inside the AMS

AMS Sponsors NExT Fellows

Each year the AMS sponsors six Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) Fellows who are affiliated with Ph.D.-granting institutions and who show promise in mathematics research.

The names, affiliations, and areas of research of the 2009–2010 NExT Fellows are: DANIEL CRANSTON, Virginia Commonwealth University, theoretical computer science (discrete mathematics); NATHANIEL ELDREDGE, Cornell University, geometric partial differential equations; PAUL JENKINS, Brigham Young University, number theory; KELLY MCKINNIE, University of Montana, algebra; REBECCA SCHMITZ, University of Minnesota, Toeplitz and composition operators and mathematics education; and WENBO TANG, Arizona State University, differential equations and dynamical systems.

Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) is a professional development program for new or recent Ph.D.s in the mathematical sciences (including pure and applied mathematics, statistics, operations research, and mathematics education). It addresses all aspects of an academic career: improving the teaching and learning of mathematics, engaging in research and scholarship, and participating in professional activities. It also provides the participants with a network of peers and mentors as they assume these responsibilities. Each year sixty to eighty new Ph.D.s receive Project NExT Fellowships, which allow them to attend special events at the summer MathFest of the Mathematical Association of America and at the Joint Mathematics Meetings. The AMS also holds activities for the AMS NExT Fellows at the Joint Mathematics Meetings.

T. Christine Stevens, who cofounded Project NExT in 1994 with James R. C. Leitzel and who has been its sole director since 1998, has stepped down from her post. She has been replaced by Aparna Higgins of the University of Dayton. Stevens said, "The sixteen years that I have spent working on Project NExT have been exciting, enjoyable, and exhausting. I'm proud of what it has accomplished, and I'm grateful for the strong support that the AMS and other professional organizations have given to Project NExT. I look forward to its continued success under the able leadership of Aparna W. Higgins." Higgins had this to say about Stevens: "Her vision of Project NExT has been expansive and inclusive. Chris's planning of Project NExT activities has been detailed. Chris's enthusiasm for Project NExT and the Fellows has been inspiring. Her execution of the duties associated with the job has been skillful. Chris's dedication to Project NExT and the Project NExT Fellows, all 1,170 of them, has been evident every day of the last sixteen years." At the Summer Mathfest of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), Chris Stevens was presented with a certificate that read in part: "Under Chris's inspirational leadership and wise guidance Project NExT has become one of the most successful programs in the history of the MAA, linking mathematicians at all stages of their careers and having a profound influence on the entire profession." As the new director, Higgins will continue to be supported by Judith Covington, Joseph Gallian, and Gavin LaRose. Higgins said, "The task would be daunting but for the fact that we were recruited and trained by Chris…. [She] infected us with her enthusiasm."

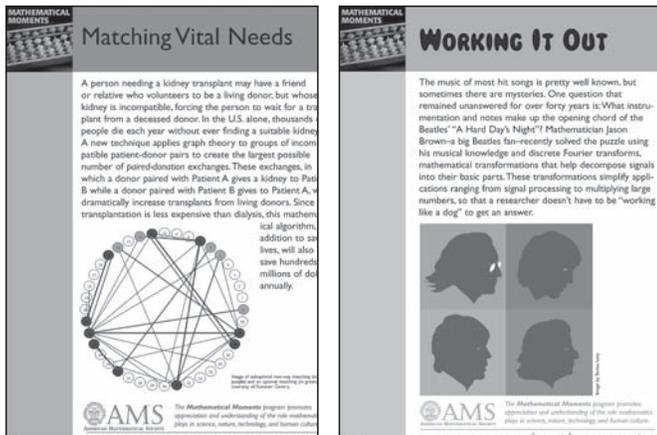For further information about Project NExT, see the website `http://archives.math.utk.edu/projnext/`.

—Aparna Higgins, Project NExT

From the AMS Public Awareness Office

Mathematical Research Communities—2009. The 2009 Mathematics Research Communities (MRC) summer conferences, held at the Snowbird Resort in Utah, drew 120 early-career mathematicians. These conferences are part of the AMS program that includes special sessions at the Joint Mathematics Meetings, a longitudinal study, and a continuation of the connections and collaborations via an electronic network. This year's conferences were: *Mathematical Challenges of Relativity, Inverse Problems, Modern Markov Chains and Their Statistical Applications*, and *Harmonic Analysis*. "I was extremely moved by the level of enthusiasm and energy displayed by the participants at our workshop in general relativity," said Sergiu

Klainerman, co-organizer of the *Mathematical Challenges of Relativity* conference. "I have never been, I believe, in my entire career, to a more exciting meeting from this point of view, one in which both the young people and not so young, like myself, were talking mathematics almost nonstop, from early on at breakfast until late at night in the hospitality suite. The format of the MRC conferences enabled this magic to take place. Congratulations to AMS for this very unusual and successful initiative." See photographs and read more comments at `http://www.ams.org/ams/mrc-2009.html`.

Mathematical Moments. The 2009 set of Mathematical Moments includes "Predicting Climate", "Matching Vital

Needs" (increasing the number of live-donor kidney transplants), "Analyzing Data", and "Working It Out" (math and the Beatles). These and more than seventy other topics, some with podcast interviews and translated into other languages, are at `http://www.ams.org/mathmoments`.

Headlines & Deadlines. AMS members are invited to sign up to receive twice-monthly email notifications of news and announcements about programs, publications, and events, as well as alerts about deadlines for fellowship and grant applications, calls for proposals, and meeting registrations. The service provides a convenient way to have news that is posted on the AMS page—and some announcements and deadlines before they appear in *Notices*—delivered directly to you. It's easy to subscribe (and unsubscribe), at `http://www.ams.org/enews`.

—*Annette Emerson and Mike Breen*
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Photograph of Atle Selberg

No photo credit was given for the photograph of Atle Selberg on the Great Wall of China (Table of Contents page and also on page 704), *Notices*, June/July 2009. The photograph was taken by Yangbo Ye.

—*Sandy Frost*