

Letters to the Editor

AMS Fellows—A Modest Proposal

I do not wish to argue either for or against the AMS Fellows proposal. The program aims to reward excellence, and it will surely be passed on this third attempt, now that the required threshold has been lowered to a simple majority. I wish instead to present some modest proposals for enhancing the program.

First, AMS Fellows should be provided with a separate, express lane for registration at AMS meetings. The registration line of ordinary members can be long and slow-moving. Our Fellows' time is valuable, and would be more productively employed either inside the meeting in the front-row seats, or conversing with other Fellows in the express lane.

Second, it can be embarrassing for ordinary members to realize (after the fact) that they were in the presence of a Fellow unknowingly and hence did not speak with sufficient deference. To reduce the possibility of such situations, which are awkward for all concerned, I propose that special gold-colored nametags be provided for Fellows at all AMS meetings and functions.

Third, I propose that the publishing operations of the Society be leveraged to increase the impact of the Fellows program. For example, MathSciNet could highlight papers written by Fellows, so that one could identify the papers most worthy of attention, when searching the literature. One might further suggest that AMS journals begin automatically accepting all papers submitted by Fellows, although perhaps that would not go far enough: active solicitation and pre-approval of manuscripts from Fellows should be encouraged.

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Lecturer/Senior Lecturer/Reader in Number Theory, Arithmetic Geometry, or Arithmetic Combinatorics

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We are seeking an outstanding candidate for a Lectureship, Senior Lectureship or Readership in Number Theory, Arithmetic Geometry, or Arithmetic Combinatorics. You will join the Pure Mathematics Group within the School of Mathematics. For a Lectureship you are expected to demonstrate outstanding research potential in one of the above or closely related research areas. For a Senior Lectureship or Readership you are expected to have an outstanding record of research and academic leadership.

The University of Bristol's School of Mathematics is one of the leading centres for research and teaching in mathematics in the UK. The Pure Mathematics Group is internationally recognised, with interests in number theory, arithmetic geometry, arithmetic combinatorics, ergodic theory, random matrix theory, algebra, analysis and logic. The Bristol Number Theory Group is distinguished by the unusual breadth of interests encompassed both by its members and closely associated affiliates from the groups in Ergodic Theory and Mathematical Physics. Current members of the group are Andrew Booker, Tim Browning, Brian Conrey, Tim Dokchitser, Lynne Walling and Trevor Wooley, with Alex Gorodnik, Jon Keating, Jens Marklof, Misha Rudnev and Nina Snaith having closely allied interests. It has close links with the Heilbronn Institute for Mathematical Research, which focuses on discrete mathematics and funds about 20 postdoctoral fellows in the School of Mathematics. We particularly welcome suitably qualified female applicants, as women are currently under-represented in the School of Mathematics.

You should arrange for three referees to send letters of recommendation directly to Professor Trevor Wooley, FRS, e-mail trevor.wooley@bristol.ac.uk or fax +44 (0) 117 928 7999 by the closing date, 9.00am 12 December 2011. Please note that it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the reference letters are received by the closing date.

For informal enquiries please contact Professor TD Wooley on +44 (0) 117 331 5240 or e-mail trevor.wooley@bristol.ac.uk

For further details and an application form please visit www.bristol.ac.uk/jobs Alternatively you can e-mail recruitment@bristol.ac.uk or telephone +44 (0) 117 954 6947, quoting the reference number 16654.

The closing date for applications is 9.00am, Monday 12 December 2011.

Interviews will be held during January 2012.

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