Mathematics Opportunities

Call for Nominations for Prizes of the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World

The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) prizes are awarded to individual scientists in developing countries in recognition of outstanding contributions to knowledge in eight fields of science. Eight awards are given each year in the fields of mathematics, medical sciences, biology, chemistry, physics, agricultural sciences, earth sciences, and engineering sciences. Each award consists of a prize of US$15,000 and a plaque. Candidates for the awards must be scientists who have been working and living in a developing country for at least ten years.

The deadline for nominations for the 2012 prizes is **March 31, 2012**. Nomination forms should be sent to: TWAS Prizes, International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) Campus, Strada Costiera 11, 1-34151 Trieste, Italy; fax: 39 040 2240 7387; email: prizes@twas.org. Further information is available on the World Wide Web at http://www.twas.org/.

—From a TWAS announcement

AMS-Simons Travel Grants for Early-Career Mathematicians

The AMS is accepting applications for the second year of the AMS-Simons Travel Grants program. Each grant provides an early-career mathematician with US$2,000 per year for two years to reimburse travel expenses related to research. Sixty new awards will be made in 2012. Individuals who are not more than four years past the completion of the Ph.D. are eligible. The department of the awardee will also receive a small amount of funding to help enhance its research atmosphere.

The deadline for 2012 applications is **March 30, 2012**. Applicants must be located in the United States or be U.S. citizens. For complete details of eligibility and application instructions, visit www.ams.org/programs/travel-grants/AMS-SimonsTG.

—AMS announcement

For Your Information

Dynkin Interviews Digitized at Cornell

The Cornell University Library has acquired a collection of interviews of mathematicians conducted by Eugene Dynkin, Cornell's Emeritus A. R. Bullis Professor of Mathematics. Dynkin worked with the library's Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections and Digital Scholarship Services to organize and digitize his revolutionary conversations, many of which are interviews with Russian mathematicians. They are available online at dynkincollection.library.cornell.edu.

The interviews, which Dynkin recorded over more than half a century, are a rich source of information not only about mathematics but also about history, providing insight into academic life under a repressive Soviet regime. The collection contains nearly one hundred fifty audio and video recordings, plus biographical information about each mathematician and a select group of photographs.

Dynkin was born in Leningrad in 1924. He received a Ph.D. in 1948 from Moscow State University, where he was a faculty member for many years. Informal contact with Western colleagues was impossible during the Stalin era. "Western mathematical journals in the library were stamped 'Restricted Access. Only for Official Use'," he said. "Even after Stalin's death, like most Soviet mathematicians, I was not permitted to travel to Western countries. However, I was able to record a few conversations with foreign visitors to Moscow."

At the time that Dynkin and his wife immigrated to the United States in 1976, taking abroad any manuscript or audio recording needed the approval of an expert committee. Dynkin transferred his interviews from cassettes to small reels and left them with his friends, who later gave the reels to traveling American or Canadian colleagues to bring back to Dynkin at Cornell. He continued his interviews with mathematicians all over the world, although the Russian part of his collection was restricted to conversations with émigrés. After the end of the cold war Dynkin became able to interview former colleagues.

In the interviews, mathematicians discuss their family histories, other famous mathematicians, and current research. Although mathematics is the central focus of

most of the interviews, a few contain hidden gems of mathematicians singing folk songs, performing operatic arias, and playing musical instruments.

Through the American Mathematical Society some funds were made available for the translation of the Russian-language material so that it would be accessible to the international community, but many more still need to be addressed before the site can assemble a complete English-language archive. To help in continuing to make the collection accessible to researchers, the library is asking those who listen to the interviews to contribute lists of the topics they contain, as well as transcripts or translations, to rareref@cornell.edu. More information can be found at http://communications.library.cornell.edu/news/111107/dynkin.

—From a Cornell University press release

Correction

The February issue of the *Notices* carried a review of the film *Top Secret Rosies*; the reviewer was Judy Green. Due to an editing error, the final footnote of the review was garbled. As a result, the first sentence of the last paragraph was imprecise. The point of that sentence is the following: While things are better for women, mathematicians and others, than they were in the 1940s, it took about fifty years for the original programmers of the ENIAC to be recognized.

The *Notices* regrets this error.

—Sandy Frost

Inside the AMS

AMS Hosts Congressional Briefing

Mathematics and stents was the subject of a congressional briefing hosted by the AMS on December 6, 2011. The Capitol Hill presentation, titled "Mathematics: Leading the Way for New Options in the Treatment of Coronary Artery Disease", was given by Suncica Canic of the University of Houston.

Coronary artery disease is a precursor for heart attack, the number one killer in the United States. Treatment of this disease entails inserting a stent to keep the coronary arteries open. Patient-specific decisions on the choice of a particular stent tailored to a given patient's anatomy are not common practice. This presentation showed how mathematics provides a quick and inexpensive way to make patient-specific decisions by testing the stent's behavior prior to the insertion into a patient's coronary artery. Prescribing mathematical and computer simulations, in addition to prescribing a blood test and angiogram, is the future of personalized medicine.

An AMS "Mathematical Moments", titled "Improving Stents" and encapsulating this research, is available at http://www.ams.org/samplings/mathmoments/mm72-stent.pdf.

The AMS holds annual congressional briefings as a means to communicate information to policymakers. Speakers discuss the importance of mathematics research and present their work in layman's terms to congressional staff as a way to inform members of Congress of how mathematics impacts today's important issues.

—Anita Benjamin, AMS Washington office

From the AMS Public Awareness Office

Mathematics History: AMS Books and Resources. See links to AMS Books (History of Mathematics Series, Collected Works Series, AMS Chelsea Publishing Series and Non-Series Books); Free Online Books (on American Mathematical Society and mathematical history); Free Online Resources (AMS Presidents: A Timeline, This Mathematical Month, Feature Column); and articles on mathematics history and mathematicians from *Notices of the AMS* at http://www.ams.org/samplings/math-history/math-history.

PhD + epsilon. Early-career mathematician Adriana Salerno blogs about her experiences and challenges. Recent topics include pretenure reviews, mathematicians in unlikely places, grading, and using Skype. She welcomes comments from mathematicians at all levels. See http://blogs.ams.org/phdplus/.

AMS on social networks. As part of the AMS commitment to the open flow of communications and community engagement, the Society uses several social networking tools to supplement the channels currently in place for press, members, and general communication. AMS members are invited to follow the AMS and connect with colleagues on AMS Facebook, AMS Twitter, and AMS LinkedIn. Link to all at http://www.ams.org/about-us/social.

—Annette Emerson and Mike Breen
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