
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, I-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