Kida Awarded Operator Algebra Prize

YOSHIKATA KIDA of the University of Tokyo has been awarded the fifth Operator Algebra Prize “for his outstanding contributions to the interaction between ergodic theory and geometric group theory, and applications to theory of operator algebras.” The Operator Algebra Prize was established in 1999 by initiatives and contributions from some senior Japanese researchers in operator algebra theory and related fields to encourage young researchers. The prize is awarded every four years for outstanding contributions to operator algebra theory and related areas to a person under forty years of age either of Japanese nationality or principally based in a Japanese institution. The prize consists of a cash award of about US$3,000, a prize certificate, and a medal.

—Yasuyuki Kawahigashi, Chair, Operator Algebra Prize Committee

Nisan Awarded Knuth Prize

NOAM NISAN of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has been awarded the 2016 Donald E. Knuth Prize “for fundamental and lasting contributions to theoretical computer science in areas including communication complexity, pseudorandom number generators, interactive proofs, and algorithmic game theory.” The prize citation reads in part: “Nisan’s work has had a fundamental impact on complexity theory, which examines which problems could conceivably be solved by a computer under limits on its resources, whether it is on its computation time, space used, amount of randomness or parallelism. One of the major ways in which computer scientists have explored the complexity limits is through the use of randomized algorithms. Nisan has made major contributions exploring the power of randomness in computations. His work designing pseudorandom number generators has offered many insights on whether, and in what settings, the use of randomization in efficient algorithms can be reduced.”

The Knuth Prize is given jointly by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Special Interest Group on Algorithms and Computation Theory (SIGACT) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Computer Society Technical Committee on the Mathematical Foundations of Computing (TCMF). The award carries a cash prize of US$5,000.

—From an ACM announcement

Rothvoss Awarded 2016 Packard Fellowship

THOMAS ROTHVOS has been awarded a Packard Fellowship by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. The Fellowship provides a grant of US$875,000 over five years to allow the recipient to pursue his or her research. Rothvoss works in computer and information sciences. His research deals with the question of which types of computational problems can be solved efficiently by algorithms and which ones cannot. In particular, he develops techniques to find approximate solutions to
computationally hard problems. He tells the Notices: “I did my undergraduate studies in computer science back in Dortmund, Germany. But quickly I got fascinated by questions in particular in complexity theory and I gave up my goal of getting a real job, turning to mathematics and theoretical computer science research. To get my head free, I like hiking in the Pacific Northwest as well as biking.”

—From a Packard Foundation announcement

Morrison Awarded Australian Mathematical Society Medal

SCOTT MORRISON of the Australian National University has been awarded the 2015 Australian Mathematical Society Medal for his research in Khovanov homology, derived topological quantum field theories, and small examples of subfactors and tensor categories. Morrison is one of the founders of MathOverflow and a member of the arXiv’s mathematics advisory board. He tells the Notices: “I’m really excited about quantum symmetries, tensor categories, and topological matter!” The medal is awarded annually to a member of the Society under the age of forty for distinguished research in the mathematical sciences, a significant portion of which should be carried out in Australia.

—From an ANZIAM announcement

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