AMS Updates

2022 Mathematical Art Awards

The 2022 Mathematical Art Exhibit Awards were made in April at the Virtual Joint Mathematics Meetings (JMM) “for aesthetically pleasing works that combine mathematics and art.” These awards were established in 2008 through an endowment provided to the AMS by an anonymous donor who wishes to acknowledge those whose works demonstrate the beauty and elegance of mathematics expressed in a visual art form.

The winners of the 2022 awards are:

- Best Photograph, Painting, or Print: David Reimann
- Best Textile, Sculpture, or Other: Laura Nica
- Co-Honorable Mention: Public Math and the University of Kentucky Math Lab (Nathan Fieldsteel, et al.)


View these and more than ninety other works from mathematicians and artists from around the world at https://bit.ly/3P1RRc2.

—AMS Programs Department

Anuraag Bukkuri

Anuraag Bukkuri, a PhD student in integrated mathematical oncology at the University of South Florida and Moffitt Cancer Center, is the 2022 AMS Mass Media Fellow. He is working this summer as a journalist for The Miami Herald, reporting on science and related topics.

In his research, Bukkuri applies perspectives from mathematics, ecology, evolution, and Earth history to cancer therapies. He studied mathematics as an undergraduate at Dartmouth College and the University of Minnesota. Growing up, he wrote short stories and poems, but his interests in science and writing did not overlap at first.

“In more recent years is when I saw a big gap in the mathematical field for bringing our ideas, our passion for math, [and] the applications of math in the real world to the public,” Bukkuri said. In an article appearing in The Conversation last year, he described how evolutionary game theory could improve cancer treatment.

COVID-19, climate change, rising sea levels, the Everglades—all these scientific topics matter to the people of South Florida, Bukkuri said. He is glad to have the opportunity to talk with local experts and use his training as a mathematician to write for Herald readers in a clear and methodical style.

Bukkuri is one of 28 fellows embedded in newsrooms across the country this summer. “To join this group of truly distinguished people—not only in my cohort, but for decades—is truly an honor, and I hope to be able to learn from everyone over the years to come.” After the fellowship, Bukkuri plans to pursue an academic research career while continuing to write.

About the Fellowship

Organized by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the Mass Media Science and
Engineering Fellowship program improves public understanding of science and technology by placing advanced undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate science, mathematics, and engineering students in media outlets nationwide. Fellows work for 10 weeks over the summer as reporters, researchers, and production assistants alongside media professionals to sharpen their communication skills and increase their understanding of the editorial process by which events and ideas become news. Now in its 47th year, the fellowship program counts over 750 scientists and science communicators as alumni. The AMS has sponsored a Mass Media Fellow most years since 1997. Learn more about the fellowship at https://bit.ly/2tiZceq.

—AMS Communications Department

Duncan Wright Named 2022–2023 AMS Congressional Fellow

Duncan Wright, a postdoc at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), will be the 2022–2023 AMS Congressional Fellow. He will spend a year working on the staff of a member of Congress or that of a congressional committee, assisting in legislative and policy areas that require scientific and technical input.

Wright earned his PhD in mathematics in 2019 at the University of South Carolina (USC), studying quantum information theory. At WPI, he collaborates with chemical engineers to model how neuronal cells retract after a change in the concentration of surrounding salts. He has also participated in STEM outreach to Massachusetts middle schoolers through WPI’s STEM Education Center, STEAM Together, and AmeriCorps VISTA.

During his fellowship, Wright hopes to work on education policy, diplomacy, or foreign policy. “It’s an honor to be able to try to effect change on a much larger scale than just my class of 50 or 100 students at a time,” he said. “It’s an incredible opportunity that I’m very excited for.”

Wright became interested in policy while teaching at USC as a PhD student. Seeing some students fail college algebra multiple times, he knew that inequities throughout the educational system were at play, some of which could be addressed through better policies. He was also drawn to Washington by a desire to counter the increasingly toxic political environment.

“I grew up mediating amongst my family members. […] I was right in the middle, always trying to keep them calm,” Wright said. “I want to bring a calm, steady voice to Washington to try to cut through some of the animosity and hatred.” According to Wright, mathematicians’ knack for logical reasoning can help ensure that policy decisions are made for legitimate reasons.

Wright is looking forward to learning about the inner workings of the legislative branch. He anticipates that the network he builds during the fellowship will facilitate his transition into the policy or nonprofit world.

About the Fellowship

Each year, the AMS sponsors a Congressional Fellowship in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The fellowship provides PhD mathematicians a unique public policy learning experience, demonstrates the value of science-government interaction, and brings a technical background and external perspective to the congressional decision-making process. In addition to working on the staff of a member of Congress or that of a congressional committee, fellows receive an orientation on congressional and executive branch operations and participate in a year-long seminar series on issues involving science, technology, and public policy. Learn more about the fellowship at https://bit.ly/2X5Yi3D.

—AMS Communications Department

Deaths of AMS Members

H. Bechtell, of Eatonton, Georgia, died on May 22, 2022. Born on April 26, 1929, he was a member of the Society for 65 years.

Herbert H. Diekhans, of Evanston, Illinois, died on December 23, 2019. Born on March 4, 1925, he was a member of the Society for 55 years.

Herbert I. Freedman, of the University of Alberta, died on November 21, 2017. Born on November 16, 1940, he was a member of the Society for 52 years.

Earl J. Taft, of New York, New York, died on August 9, 2021. Born on August 27, 1931, he was a member of the Society for 67 years.

Credits

2022 Mathematical Art Exhibit images are courtesy of the artists.
Photo of Anuraag Bukkuri is courtesy of Anuraag Bukkuri.
Photo of Duncan Wright is courtesy of Duncan Wright.