Mathematics People

Parisi Receives Dirac Medal

The International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste, Italy, has awarded the 1999 Dirac Medal to GIORGIO PARISI of the Universita La Sapienza, Rome, Italy.

According to the award citation, Parisi "is distinguished for his original and deep contributions to many areas of physics," including "the study of scaling violations in deep inelastic processes (Altarelli-Parisi equations), the proposal of the superconductor's flux confinement model as a mechanism for quark confinement, the use of supersymmetry in statistical classical systems, the introduction of multifractals in turbulence, the stochastic differential equation for growth models for random aggregation (the Kardar-Parisi-Zhang model), and his groundbreaking analysis of the replica method that has permitted an important breakthrough in our understanding of glassy systems and has proved to be instrumental in the whole subject of disordered systems."

The Paul Adrien Maurice Dirac medal was instituted in 1985 to recognize outstanding contributions to theoretical physics and mathematics. The award is announced yearly on August 8, P. A. M. Dirac's birthday. The prize carries a cash award of $5,000.

An international committee of distinguished scientists selects the winners from among nominated candidates. The committee invites nominations from anyone working in the areas of theoretical physics or mathematics. (The Dirac Medal is not awarded to Nobel Prize or Wolf Foundation Prize winners.) For more information consult the ICTP Web site, `http://www.ictp.trieste.it/`.

—From an ICTP announcement

Trjitzinsky Memorial Awards Presented

The AMS has made awards to three undergraduate mathematics majors through the Waldemar J. Trjitzinsky Memorial Fund. The fund is made possible by a bequest from the estate of Waldemar J., Barbara G., and Juliette Trjitzinsky. The will of Barbara Trjitzinsky stipulates that the income from the bequest should be used to establish a fund in honor of the memory of her husband to assist needy students in mathematics.

Each year the AMS selects four geographically distributed schools to which it makes one-time awards of approximately $3,750 each. The mathematics departments of those schools then choose students to receive the funds to assist them in their pursuit of careers in mathematics. The schools are selected in a random drawing from the pool of AMS institutional members. This year the four institutions receiving the award funds were City University of New York (CUNY), Reed College, the University of Texas at San Antonio, and Western Kentucky University.

CUNY selected HULYA CEBECIOUGLU, a student from Turkey, to receive the award. She studied English at the University of Texas and obtained her master's degree in mathematics from Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute. She has been in the Ph.D. program at CUNY since January 1997. Cebeciouglu plans to do her dissertation research on partial differential equations.

Reed College has chosen JEREMY COPELAND as its recipient of the award. Copeland was born in Frankfort, Kentucky. He attended Western Hills High School in Frankfort, graduating in May 1997. He plans to graduate from Reed in

December 2000. He intends to go to graduate school, and his future plans include teaching.

Western Kentucky University presented the award to MARCIA JEAN MERCER of New Britain, Connecticut. Although she left high school after the ninth grade, she later completed the GED in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and was named the Kentucky GED student of the year. She still serves as a volunteer mathematics tutor at the GED center. Mercer began her studies at Western Kentucky in August of 1996 and this year was named the outstanding junior in mathematics. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. in mathematics and become a college professor.

For more information about the Trjitzinsky Fund, contact the development officer, AMS, P. O. Box 6248, Providence, RI 02940-6248; e-mail: `ams@ams.org`.

—Elaine Kehoe

China and Russia Tie for First in International Mathematical Olympiad

Teams from China and Russia shared first-place honors at the 40th Annual International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), held in Bucharest, Romania, on July 16 and 17, 1999. Competing against teams representing 81 countries, the Chinese and Russian teams both scored 182 points out of a possible 252. The United States team finished tenth, scoring 150 points. The other teams in the top twelve were Vietnam (177), Romania (173), Bulgaria (170), Belarus (167), Korea (164), Iran (159), Taiwan (153), Hungary (147), and Ukraine (136).

The U.S. team, consisting of six American high school students, won six medals at the competition: two gold, three silver, and one bronze. The members of the U.S. team were: REID BARTON (Arlington, Massachusetts, home schooled), gold medalist; GABRIEL CARROLL (Oakland Technical High School, Oakland, California), silver medalist; LAWRENCE DETLOR (St. Ann's School, Brooklyn, New York), bronze medalist; PO-SHEN LOH (James Madison Memorial High School, Madison, Wisconsin), silver medalist; PAUL VALIANT (Milton Academy, Milton, Massachusetts), gold medalist; and MELANIE WOOD (Park Tudor High School, Indianapolis, Indiana), silver medalist. Barton, Carroll, Valiant, and Wood were also medalists in last year's competition.

The team was chosen on the basis of the students' performance in the 28th USA Mathematical Olympiad held in April. The students attended a four-week Mathematical Olympiad Summer Program at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, over the past summer, under the leadership of Titu Andreescu (Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy), director of the American Mathematics Competitions. They were also accompanied by Kiran Kedlaya (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and Walter E. Mientka (University of Nebraska, Lincoln). Financial and program support for the competition is provided by the Army Research Office, the Office of Naval Research, the Microsoft Corporation, the Matilda R. Wilson Foundation, and the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. The AMS and the Mathematical Association of America are also cosponsors of the event.

—From an MAA announcement

Deaths

PEDRO ABELLANAS, retired from the Univ. Complutense de Madrid, Spain, died on July 29, 1999. Born on November 20, 1914, he was a member of the Society for 49 years.

R. LUCILE ANDERSON, retired from Hunter College, died on February 18, 1999. Born on October 22, 1900, she was a member of the Society for 74 years.

WALTER A. DEUBER, of the University of Bielefeld, Germany, died on July 16, 1999. Born on October 6, 1942, he was a member of the Society for 26 years.

AARON D. FIALKOW, professor emeritus of the Polytechnic University, NY, died on August 21, 1999. Born on August 9, 1911, he was a member of the Society for 63 years.

F. BURTON JONES, of Santa Barbara, CA, died on April 15, 1999. Born on November 22, 1910, he was a member of the Society for 66 years.

SELIM KREIN, retired from the Voronezh Inst. of Forestry Tech., Russia, died on August 18, 1999. Born on July 15, 1917, he was a member of the Society for 26 years.

ANNELI LAX, professor emeritus of the Courant Institute–New York University, died on September 24, 1999. Born on February 23, 1922, she was a member of the Society for 51 years.

ANDRÉ LICHNEROWICZ, professor emeritus of the Collège de France, Paris, died on December 11, 1998. Born on January 21, 1915, he was a member of the Society for 50 years.

CLYDE T. MCCORMICK, of Palm Beach Atlantic College, FL, died on November 1, 1998. Born on March 6, 1908, he was a member of the Society for 54 years.

GERALD C. POMRANING, of the UCLA School of Engineering, died on February 6, 1999. Born on February 23, 1936, he was a member of the Society for 13 years.

OTIS S. SPEARS, retired, U.S. Civil Serv./U.S. Army, Ft. Sill, OK, died on September 2, 1999. Born on July 25, 1909, he was a member of the Society for 51 years.

SHLOMO STRELITZ, of the University of Haifa, Israel, died on September 27, 1999. Born on January 7, 1923, he was a member of the Society for 18 years.