Mathematics People

Coxeter Receives Sylvester Medal

H. S. M. COXETER, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at the University of Toronto, has been awarded the Sylvester Medal of the Royal Society. He received the honor "in recognition of his achievements in geometry, notably projective geometry, non-euclidean geometry and the analysis of spatial shapes and patterns, and for his substantial contributions to practical group theory which pervade much modern mathematics."

— Royal Society

Loïc Merel Receives Blumenthal Prize

The Leonard M. and Eleanor B. Blumenthal Award for the Advancement of Research in Pure Mathematics has been awarded to LOÏC MEREL of Université Denis Diderot, Paris

VII. The award was presented at the AMS meeting in Montreal, Canada, on September 27, 1997, where Merel also presented a lecture entitled "Rational Points: The Case of Elliptic Curves".

Merel was born in Carhaix-Plouguer, Brittany, France, on August 13, 1965. In 1986 he became a student at the École Normale Supérieure, where his interest in number theory was kindled. In 1989 he began a thesis on modular symbols under the supervision of Joseph Oesterlé of the Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris VI. Merel took inspiration from the work of Y. Manin and B. Mazur from the 1970s. After a year of military service at the École Polytechnique, Merel completed his Ph.D. in 1993. He then took a CNRS position in the team Problèmes Diophantiens at the Université Pierre et Marie Curie. By combining the techniques developed in his thesis with work of other people, Merel proved that the torsion of elliptic curves over number fields is uniformly bounded. On the basis of that result, he obtained his habilitation in 1994. He held a Miller Professorship at the University of California, Berkeley from 1995 to 1997. He is currently a professor at the Université Denis Diderot.

Merel received the Saintour Prize (1994) and the Peccot Prize (1995) of the Collège de France, the Bronze Medal of the CNRS (1995), and the European Mathematical Society Prize at the European Congress of Mathematics in Budapest (1996).

The Leonard M. and Eleanor B. Blumenthal Trust for the Advancement of Mathematics was created for the purpose of assisting the Department of Mathematics of the University of Missouri at Columbia, where Leonard Blumenthal served as professor for many years. Its second purpose is to recognize distinguished achievements in the field of mathematics through the Leonard M. and Eleanor B. Blumenthal Award for the Advancement of Research in Pure Mathematics, which was originally funded from the Eleanor B. Blumenthal Trust (dated September 24, 1984) upon Mrs. Blumenthal's death on July 12, 1987.

The Trust, which is administered by the Financial Management and Trust Services Division of Boone County National Bank in Columbia, Missouri, pays its net income to the recipient of the award each year for four years. The recipient is selected by a committee of five members, each of whom has made notable contributions to mathematics. On the committee are Hendrik Lenstra (chair), University of California, Berkeley; Ronald Coifman, Yale University; Benedict Gross, Harvard University; Thomas C. Spencer, Institute for Advanced Study; and Robert J. Zimmer, University of Chicago.

The recipient accepts the award in person and immediately following the formal presentation of the award gives an address on the research for which the award was given. The recipient also presents his or her current research

in an address to at least one meeting of an academy or mathematical society over the next four years.

— AMS Announcement

Nomizu Receives Blaschke Medal

The Wilhelm Blaschke Memorial Foundation of Hamburg has awarded the Blaschke Medal to KATSUMI NOMIZU of Brown University. A Festkolloquium in honor of Nomizu was held in Hamburg in October and featured several lectures on modern developments in affine differential geometry as well as the medal presentation ceremony.

Nomizu was born in Osaka, Japan, and was educated in Japan and the United States. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1953 and worked in Japan and France before going to Brown University in 1960. A prominent differential geometer, Nomizu has lectured widely in the United States and Europe and is the author of over 85 scientific papers and 7 books. His most widely known work is the two-volume *Foundations of Differential Geometry*, which he wrote with S. Kobayashi of the University of California, Berkeley. It became the standard reference text for a generation of differential geometers. A theme running through Nomizu's mathematical career has been affine differential geometry, starting with his Ph.D. thesis and continuing through his most recent mathematical papers. While maintaining his active research career, Nomizu retired from Brown University in 1995 as the Florence Pirce Grant University Professor and Professor of Mathematics.

Wilhelm Blaschke (1885–1962) was a prominent geometer and professor of mathematics at the Universität Hamburg from 1919 through his retirement in 1953. He worked in the area of differential geometry and is known for his geometrical intuition and his use of analytic techniques. His major work, the three volumes of *Vorlesungen über Differentialgeometrie* (1921–1929), was influential in the modern development of the field. Volume 2 of this work is dedicated in particular to the exposition of affine differential geometry. Under his influence the Universität Hamburg became a prominent center for mathematics, and Blaschke attracted there the well-known mathematicians E. Artin, E. Hecke, and H. Hasse.

— Walter Craig, Chair, Mathematics Department, Brown University

NRC-Ford Foundation Minority Fellowships

The National Research Council administers the Ford Foundation fellowship program, which awards fellowships to outstanding minority graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. This year the program presented 100 fellowships in mathematics, the sciences, and the humanities. One award was made in mathematics, to JIM A. BRYAN of the University of California, Berkeley.

— from NRC News Release

Presidential Awards for Mentoring

Ten individuals and nine institutions have been named winners of the 1997 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring. This is the second year of the award, administered and funded through the National Science Foundation (NSF). The awards recognize outstanding individual efforts and organizational programs to increase the participation of underrepresented groups in science, mathematics, and engineering at the K–12 through graduate level. Up to ten individuals and ten institutions annually may qualify for the award, which includes a $10,000 grant and a commemorative presidential certificate.

Among the individual awardees were four in the mathematical sciences: CARLOS CASTILLO-CHAVEZ, Cornell University; DAVID FERGUSON, State University of New York, Stony Brook; ROBERT MEGGINSON, University of Michigan; and WILLIAM Y. VELEZ, University of Arizona. Among the institutions receiving the awards is University of Texas, San Antonio, which was honored for the Pre-Freshmen Engineering Program (PREP), directed by mathematician Manuel Berriozabal.

— from NSF News Release

Deaths

RODERICK P. C. CALDWELL, associate professor at the University of Rhode Island, died on September 8, 1997. Born on March 18, 1915, he was a member of the Society for 43 years.

LOUIS HERMAN, associate professor at Kansas State University, died on August 19, 1997. Born on June 25, 1942, he was a member of the Society for 31 years.

ANDREY MALISHEVSKI, senior resident fellow at the Institute of Control Sciences, Moscow, died on September 4, 1997. Born on March 17, 1943, he was a member of the Society for 2 years.

MASAMI OKADA, professor at Tohoku University, Japan, died on August 11, 1997. Born on February 11, 1951, he was a member of the Society for 13 years.

CHARLES L. RIGGS, of Lubbock, Texas, died on November 30, 1996. Born on August 13, 1923, he was a member of the Society for 47 years.