

NEWS

Personal Items

- **Professor J.A. Barroso** (Rio de Janeiro) is presently visiting the Mathematics Department of UCD.
- **Professor Irene Hazou** of Bethlehem University, West Bank, visited the Mathematics Department of UCD recently to discuss curriculum development in mathematics. Her visit was sponsored by HEDCO (the Higher Educational Development Corporation).
- **Professor Wang Ming-Ci**, Vice-Chairman of the Mathematics Department of Chengdu University of Science and Technology, Sichuan, China, and a member of the Guiding Committee of Mathematical Education in China, visited the Mathematics Department of University College Galway recently to investigate the teaching of mathematics to Engineering students in Ireland. She lectured to the department on the present state of mathematical education in China.
- **Professor H.G. Dales** of Leeds University, is presently visiting the Mathematics Department of Maynooth College.
- **Professor J. Verdara** of the University of Barcelona, will be visiting the Mathematics Department of Maynooth College during June and July.
- **John Kinsella** has been appointed Lecturer in Mathematics in NIHE Limerick.
- **Peter Danaher** (Auckland) has taken up a one-year appointment in the Statistics Department at UCD.

- **Siddartha Sen** of the Department of Applied Mathematics at TCD, is presently visiting Fermi Lab and Carnegie-Mellon University in the United States.
- **Paul McGill** has resigned his position in the Mathematics Department of Maynooth College.
- **Eamonn Murphy** has been appointed Assistant Lecturer in Mathematics and Statistics in NIHE Limerick.
- **Joe Buckley** has left the Department of Mathematics in NIHE Limerick to take up a position in Australia.
- **Phil Rippon**, our Problem Page Editor, has been promoted to Senior Lecturer in the Mathematics Department at the Open University.
- **Niall Ó Murchadha** of the Experimental Physics Department of UCC has been promoted to Statutory Lecturer.
- **Pól Mac Aonghusa** has been appointed to a one-year position in the Mathematics Department of Maynooth College.
- **David Walsh** has been promoted to Senior Lecturer in Mathematics in Maynooth College.

Statistics Position in UCD

Professor Phil Boland will welcome applications for a three-year appointment in the Statistics Department of University College Dublin.

New Appointments to LMS Editorial Board

Professor Brian Twomey of the Mathematics Department, UCC and Dr. Phil Rippon of the Open University have been appointed to the Editorial Board of the London Mathematical Society for a 5-year period, beginning on 1st January 1988. Authors wishing to submit a paper for publication in any of the three journals (Bulletin, Journal and Proceedings) of the LMS send papers in the first instance to the appropriate member of the Editorial Board. Professor Twomey will handle papers in Complex Analysis and Fourier Analysis, while Dr. Rippon will deal with Potential Theory and Complex Analysis.

National Committee Newsletter

The National Committee for Mathematics of the Royal Irish Academy hopes to publish a mathematics newsletter between issues of the IMS Bulletin. The editors are T. J. Laffey and M. Hayes. They will welcome any items about conferences and other mathematical events.

Lecturing in Developing Countries

The ICSU and the TWAS (Third World Academy of Sciences) are jointly organizing a Lectureship Programme through which they will finance the travel of scientists from any part of the world to give scientific lectures in developing countries. Further details can be obtained from the National Committee for Mathematics of the Royal Irish Academy.

Charitable Status for IMS

Thanks to the efforts of Finbarr Holland, the Irish Mathematical Society is now regarded by the Revenue Commissioners as established for charitable purposes only.

ICM 90

The next International Congress of Mathematicians will be held in Kyoto in 1990. The National Committee for Mathematics of the Royal Irish Academy has been asked for suggestions for speakers and, in accordance with previous practice, will welcome any assistance that IMS members can provide. Each suggestion should be motivated, and should include a short list of publications. These should be sent to the National Committee for Mathematics, Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2, before 31st October 1988.

The outgoing President of the IMU, Jürgen Moser, has appealed for funds to enable young mathematicians from developing countries to attend the Congress. For ICM 86 the IMU provided travel grants for over thirty young mathematicians, but contributions from members did not come up to expectations. He is appealing for a better response this time. Donations to the Special Development Fund can be sent to the Academy up to the end of 1989. Cheques should be made payable to "Royal Irish Academy" with a covering note clearly stating that the contribution is intended for the IMU Special Development Fund.

A Remarkable Coincidence!

We invite readers to compare the following extracts from Mathematical Reviews:

Harte, Robin(IRE-CORK) 85b:47024

Almost open mappings between normed spaces.

Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. 90(1984), no. 2, 243-249

Harte, Robin(IRE-CORK) 85d:47024

A quantitative Schauder theorem.

Math. Z. 185(1984), no. 2, 243-245

As Lady Bracknell might have said: "To publish two papers on page 243, Mr. Harte, may be regarded as misfortune; to review both as number 47024 looks like carelessness"!

Would any reader care to estimate the odds?

International Mathematical Olympiad

The Minister for Education has approved the travel grant to send an Irish team, for the first time, to participate in the International Mathematical Olympiad in Australia in July.

Following an analysis of the Intermediate Certificate Examination and the Irish National Mathematics Contest held in the last two years, invitations were issued in December 1987 to about 300 pre-Leaving students to present themselves for preliminary assessment for the six-member team that will represent Ireland. After a series of tests, this number has been reduced and about 50 of them—drawn from about thirty different schools—have been identified as having outstanding mathematical problem-solving ability. These talented students are receiving special training in UCD, UCC, MICE and UCG under the direction of Tom Laffey, Finbarr Holland, Pat O'Sullivan and Ted Hurley, respectively.

These training sessions have generated a lot of interest amongst teachers and students alike and all those who have taken part have found it a rewarding experience. Special topics suggested by previous IMO problems have been covered at the sessions, and so far Modular Arithmetic, Combinatorics and a little Geometry have been discussed at some or all of the centres. Students' understanding of the material is being carefully monitored and we await with interest the results of this year's INMC and IIMC. We should be in a position after these contests to nominate the likely team members. Our intention is then to provide these with an intensive week's training to build up team morale and to fine-tune them in preparation for Australia.

Anyone who would like to assist at the training sessions is invited to contact the centre nearest to him/her. We would especially like to hear from people with expertise in Trigonometry, Solid Geometry, Combinatorics and Graph Theory and people who enjoy solving or creating problems. Especially in the latter case, we invite people to send in their favourite elementary problems.

One beneficial side-effect of this undertaking has been the strengthening of relations with mathematics teachers. It is hoped that the pupils will be encouraged to keep up their interest in mathematics, even if they do not get on the team.

EUROMATH

The Integrated Database And Communications System For European Mathematicians

The objective of EUROMATH is to improve the research environment for European mathematicians with the aid of modern information technology. By establishing an integrated information retrieval and communication system as well as a technical word processing standard, it will strive to stimulate the research potential within mathematics in Europe, increase the availability of mathematical research and create an environment which will encourage mathematicians towards increased collaboration through effective communication.

The first phase of the EUROMATH project will produce guidelines for the provision of the following inter-related facilities:

- Information Retrieval: Access to various directories, to (reviews of) published literature, to other databases as well as drafts and notes of individual mathematicians.
- Inter-personal Communication: Provision of suitable electronic mail and electronic conferencing facilities.
- Document Preparation and Delivery: The establishment of a European standard for mathematical communication embracing the main activities of entering, editing, transmitting, receiving and printing mathematical documents.

Traditionally, mathematicians have relied on computers mainly for such specific tasks as scientific computation and symbolic manipulation. A goal of EUROMATH is to expand computer usage by enabling easy access to modern communication facilities. Its basic concept is however equally applicable to other scientific disciplines. The success of EUROMATH could inspire others to see the benefits of a modern, full-scale solution to the communication needs of a scientific community.

The CEC project EUROMATH (The Integrated Database and Communications System for European Mathematicians), is a collaborative effort link-

ing CWI (Amsterdam), DDC (Copenhagen) and NIHE (Dublin) in a technical partnership under the management team of CRC (Dublin) and EMT (European Mathematical Trust), to which the Irish Mathematical Society is affiliated. The NIHE (Dublin) Manager is:

Dr. John Carroll,
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NIHE,
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IRISH MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

Ordinary Membership

The subscription for Ordinary Membership for the session 1987/88 is £5. Payment is now overdue and should be forwarded to the Treasurer without further delay.

Institutional Membership

Institutional Membership of the Irish Mathematical Society is available for the session 1987/88 for a subscription of £35. The support of its Institutional Members is of great benefit to the Society. Institutional Members receive two copies of the Bulletin, and may nominate up to five students for free membership.

Reciprocity Membership

Members of the Irish Mathematics Teachers Association and of the American Mathematical Society are entitled to reciprocity membership of the Irish Mathematical Society at special rates. Further details may be obtained from the Treasurer, Dr. G. Enright, at the following address:

Department of Mathematics
Mary Immaculate College of Education
Limerick

LETTERS

Why People Should Be Paid To Do Research In Mathematics

Dear Editor,

Brendan McCann's question: "Should people be Paid to Do Research in Mathematics?" (Issue 19) is fair, and one which a mathematician ought to ponder. I hope you see fit to let me share some of my thoughts about it. In discussing any question beginning with "should", it is sure that varying ethical outlooks will produce different conclusions.

To begin with, I do not accept it as given that "technology has outstripped man's needs." In fact McCann refutes this in the same paragraph when he states that "over half the world's adults are illiterate." Perhaps he does not view this as a problem to which technology can contribute. But I do. In fact, I take it as given that technology has contributed more to the human condition including human rights than any philosophical or political movement. While it is true that Mr. McCann and I are receiving more material comforts than we really need, it does not follow that everyone is. The solution to this maldistribution is (A) more technology and (B) more generosity. And it seems to me that (A) is the best way to (B).

The assertion "There is no reason to suppose that mankind will perish without further mathematical research." is a gem. You can replace "further mathematical research" with so many things: art, journalism, rock and roll, Guinness, medicine even. It seems to me that bare survival is not the issue here. Nor is the potential contributions of mathematics to technology, despite my technophile assertions above. In the sequel I shall argue as follows: (1) all human creativity including mathematical creativity should be supported by society; (2) the scheme by which mathematical creativity is presently rewarded is better than that by which most other creativity is rewarded; (3) there are practical benefits to societies which adequately reward mathematical creativity besides the eventual application of mathematical theory to technology.