
A f t e r m a t h

Conference Honoring Toledo's 60th Birthday

A complex geometry conference was held at the University of Utah March 24-25 to honor Domingo Toledo's 60th birthday. Two full days of lectures by eminent mathematicians, a banquet featuring speeches by Domingo's former students, friends and colleagues and a party at the Toledo's highlighted the meeting. Twenty-nine out-of-state and twenty-two local mathematicians attended. Participation by a dozen former students and colleagues made for an extremely convivial conference.



Janos Kollar and Domingo Toledo, photo by A. Castro

Jim Carlson and Bill Goldman of the University of Maryland organized the conference and lectured. Former Utahns Daniel Allcock of the University of Texas, Misha Kapovich of UC Davis and Janos Kollar of Princeton University and former student Luis Hernandez of Centro de Investigación en Matemáticas, Guanajuato spoke. The other speakers were Bruno Klingler of University of Chicago, Yum-Tong Siu of Harvard University, Dennis Sullivan of SUNY Stony Brook and Anna Wienhardt of the Institute for Advanced Study.

There were many congratulatory speeches at the banquet, held at Lugano's restaurant. Steve Halperin of the University of Maryland recalled graduate student days together working, hiking and cooking Indian food. Dennis Sullivan told how he learned of an important theorem of Toledo and Tong twenty years ago and it has taken him until now to finally understand it. Bill Goldman used results of Toledo for years before they met. Toledo's first student, Richard

Savage from Tennessee Technological University, remembered what a terrific resource his advisor was. Former students Luis Hernandez of CIMAT and Martin Deraux of Université Joseph Fourier, Grenoble talked of their wonderful experiences as students and Alberto Castro of Database Designs was glad to finally publicly thank Domingo Toledo for all his help. Jim Carlson quipped that on such occasions the speakers were supposed to roast the honoree, but he couldn't think of anything to roast Domingo for. The last word went to Domingo Toledo, who thanked all who helped organize and all who came.

For details and more photos, see <http://www.math.utah.edu/complexgeometry>.

Hacon wins the AMS Centennial Fellowship

Christopher Hacon has been awarded an AMS Centennial Fellowship for the 2006-2007 academic year. This fellowship is presented annually to mathematicians for excellence in research who have held the doctoral degree for between three and twelve years. The stipend for the 2006-2007 Centennial Fellowship is \$64,000, plus an expense allowance of \$3,250. Bryna Kra of Northwestern University is the only other recipient of this fellowship this year.

Chris received his Ph.D. in 1998 at the University of California at Los Angeles. He was a Wylie Assistant Professor at the University of Utah from 1998 to 2000, was an assistant professor at the University of California at Riverside from 2000 to 2002, and has been an assistant/associate professor at the University of Utah since 2002. Hacon's research is in the field of algebraic geometry. He is interested in the classification of higher dimensional complex projective varieties and in questions arising from the minimal model program. He plans to use the fellowship to visit the University of California at Santa Barbara and the University of Washington in Seattle.

<http://www.ams.org/ams/press/cent-fells-2006.html>

Farewell Nancy

After twelve years serving the math department in various capacities, Nancy DeMello, our senior accountant, has resigned her position to work as the Director of Finance and Administration at ISIS/ICOR Inc. We will miss her expertise and friendly demeanor, and we wish her much success in the years to come. Thanks, Nancy, for a job well done.



Nancy DeMello
photo A. Castro

Graduate Recruiting

by Erin Chamberlain and Sean Laverty

The recruitment weekend, March 25-27, was full of facts and fun for the department's new recruits. Heather Rasmussen, Sarah Kitchen and other members of the recruitment weekend planning committee did a great job of organizing a variety of activities for our visitors. Most of the recruits arrived early Saturday afternoon and enjoyed afternoon lunches and tours of the downtown area. After a few hours of relaxing, two groups gathered at the Guest House to begin an exciting Saturday night. Following a brief introduction to Trax, each group headed downtown, one for dinner and a Jazz game (a 2 point loss) and the other for dinner and a symphony performance.

Sunday was mainly for the students to get acquainted with the department and its faculty through many meetings and panel discussions. That night several current grad students went with the recruits to Squatters for dinner. Monday the students were free to tour the city or attend classes as they wanted, and there was a special mini-GSAC meeting where Russ Richins, Erin Chamberlain, and Jason Preszler presented some of their current work for the recruits. The recruits themselves were very energetic and excited about the possibility of studying here at the U.

Again, thanks to all who helped to plan or participate in the events which gave a good glimpse of what the University, the department, and the city have to offer.

IGERT Weekend

by Liz Doman

The annual IGERT recruiting weekend took place March 3-4. This is a time for us to show the IGERT candidates who we are, what we do, and why they should come here. This year, each of the ten visiting candidates was assigned a student host to show them around and be generally available to them. Those who volunteered to host for the weekend were Karin Leiderman, Lindsay Crawl, Giao Huynh, Sean Laverty, Liz Doman, Blerta Shtylla, Dane Maxfield, Noelle Conforti, Zach Kilpatrick, and Will Nesse.

Friday was a day full of activity for the recruits. First thing in the morning, they heard research overviews by the math biology faculty. The next part of the day was spent in individual interviews with each of the math biology faculty, who ultimately decide which of the candidates will be offered an IGERT position. In the afternoon, a poster session was held in the LCB loft with posters by Nesity Tania, Andy Oster, Meagan McNulty, John Zobitz, Liz Doman, Will Nesse, and Laura Miller. It was then off to Buca Di Beppo for dinner.

Saturday morning, a mini-retreat was held in the Guest House conference room. Everyone from the math biology group attended, and heard presentations by select math biology graduate students and post-docs. Zach Kilpatrick, Molly Kelton, John Zobitz, Karin Leiderman, Meagan McNulty, Nesity Tania, Will Nesse, Laura Miller, and Bob Guy gave phenomenal talks about their research and their experiences here at Utah. It was a true "showcase" of the math biology program. Following the mini-retreat, everyone headed up Big Cottonwood Canyon for an afternoon of skiing and snowshoeing. We all convened at the Keener cabin for warm drinks and a winter cookout. It was a good time for everyone, and a perfect ending to a very successful weekend!

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www.math.utah.edu/newsletter

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