

Mathematics

Newsletter of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Washington

JOHN MICHAEL McPHERSON NAMED PRESIDENT'S MEDALIST



Again one of our students has been named President's Medalist for the most outstanding academic record among all graduating seniors. John Michael McPherson was a joint biochemistry and Applied and Computational Mathematics Major. McPherson was recognized for his achievement at commencement in June. He had previously received the Sophomore Medal for academic achievement. He is spending this year traveling under the

auspices of a Bonderman Fellowship awarded by the Honors Program. His travels will take him through Siberia on the Trans-Siberian Railway; while in Russia he will improve his command of the Russian language. In addition to achieving academic distinction, McPherson lettered in the decathlon during his first three years.

A year ago this Newsletter reported that Kathy Temple, a joint Mathematics and Economics major, had been named President's Medalist. What we did not report at that time, because the awards were not announced until after our last newsletter went to press, was that sophomore Christopher Twigg (joint Computer Science/Math major) and junior Thomas Carlson (joint Computer Science/English/Math major) had been named Faculty Medalists on the basis of their outstanding academic records. Both Carlson and Twigg have participated in the REU—Research Experiences for Undergraduates—program in the Department, which is organized by Professors Morrow and Curtis.

Another joint Mathematics (and Economics) major, Leslie Chen, was selected to receive the award as the outstanding graduating student in the Social Sciences. (There is one such award in each of the four areas of the College of Arts and Sciences.)



Thomas Carlson



Leslie Chen



Christopher Twigg

PACIFIC INSTITUTE FOR THE MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

The University of Washington recently joined the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences (PIMS) with the support of the Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, and Statistics Departments, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the University's Office of Research.

PIMS was created in 1996 by the community of mathematical scientists in Alberta and British Columbia and was founded by a consortium of five institutions: Simon Fraser University, the University of Alberta, the University of British Columbia, the University of Calgary, and the University of Victoria, with the generous support of the provincial governments of British Columbia and Alberta, and the government of Canada through the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

PIMS could be described by the motto *INNOVATE, COLLABORATE, EDUCATE and DISSEMINATE*.

To promote innovation and excellence in all areas of the mathematical sciences, PIMS has created thematic programs, mini-programs, distinguished chairs and a distinguished colloquium series. The next two thematic programs are Nonlinear Partial Differential Equations (PIMS—UBC, July 2 to August 17, 2001) and Theoretical, Numerical and Industrial Fluid Dynamics (U. Alberta, June 4-15, 2001; Vancouver, August 20-25, 2001). PIMS also supports the Pacific Northwest seminar series. These are annual or bi-annual meetings that bring together various regional groups of mathematicians in areas represented by strong communities in the Northwest.

PIMS supports a large pool of postdoctoral fellows at the Canadian sites. We expect that, in association with PIMS and with the support of NSF, the University of Washington, and the private sector, our site will also be able to maintain a good postdoctoral program. Such programs are very important, for junior scientists play a crucial role in academics; they are the invigorating new blood. This is one of the ways in which our participation in PIMS will greatly impact the mathematical sciences at the University of Washington.

One of the new initiatives of PIMS is to develop an Oberwolfach-type conference center at Kananaskis, Alberta (<http://www.pims.math.ca/whatsnew/pimsk.html>). PIMS—K is to be a center for scientific interaction, and a major rendezvous point between the scientists of North America and those from the Pacific Rim countries.

To initiate collaboration and strengthen ties between the mathematical scientists in the academic community and those in the industrial, business, and government sectors, as well as training highly qualified personnel for academic and industrial employment, PIMS offers several programs: the Graduate Industrial Mathematics Modeling Camp (GMMC), the Industrial Problem Solving Workshop (IPSW), the Summer School in Industrial Fluid Dynamics, the School in Industrial Mathematics for Senior Undergraduates, and workshops and mini-

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