

## MICROSOFT LECTURES AND RECEPTION NOTE DEPARTMENT'S AFFILIATE PROFESSORS

On the first of May, the Department and the Microsoft Corporation celebrated the appointment of six Microsoft Theory Group members as affiliate professors in the Mathematics Department with a program of lectures followed by a reception held on the Microsoft campus in Redmond.

The program was chaired by Jennifer Chayes, the leader of the Theory Group at Microsoft. After welcoming remarks by Chayes and a few remarks by Mathematics Department chair Don Marshall, there were two lectures. The first, by Michael Freedman of Microsoft, was "Quantum Computation and the Localization of Modular Functors." The second lecture was given by Neal Koblitz of the Mathematics Department and had the title "How Pure Mathematics Almost Killed E-Commerce."

After these two lectures, a reception was held, which afforded the occasion for informal conversations among the attendees from the Mathematics Department and those from Microsoft.

## SIAM WORKSHOP

The SIAM Northwest Regional Mathematics in Industry Workshop was held at the University of Washington, October 12–14, 2000. (SIAM is the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.) This was the fifth workshop in a series of regional meetings focusing on the role of mathematics in industry. These workshops (funded by an NSF grant to SIAM) are intended to provide a forum for discussion of applied/industrial mathematics programs and activities. See <http://www.siam.org/mii> for pointers to this and previous workshops in the series and the SIAM Report on Mathematics in Industry.

The goal of the Northwest Workshop was to facilitate discussion between faculty, students, and mathematicians working in industry and national laboratories. The program featured talks by representatives from local industry describing both their technical work and the opportunities for collaboration with academia and for summer internships. Additionally a number of university programs designed to enhance university/industry interactions or to prepare students for careers in industry were described, and there were discussions of related undergraduate and graduate curriculum issues. Current and former students described their experiences working in industry and national laboratories, while parallel sessions focused on more specific problem areas. The meeting included field trips to the Boeing Everett plant and to Microsoft Research, as well as a dinner at the Waterfront Activities Center.

One of the surprises of the meeting (to this observer) was the increasing emphasis on discrete mathematics and other areas once considered "pure mathematics" in applications such as cryptography. Traditionally, industrial mathematics has meant largely partial differential equations and numerical analysis, together with some optimization. It was good to see a broader spectrum of mathematics being applied to current problems in technology.

—Anne Greenbaum

## NEW FACULTY

The Department has been able to make several new appointments in the last year.

Sándor Kovács was appointed as an Assistant Professor. He received his PhD from the University of Utah in 1995 and was an Assistant Professor at the University of Chicago. He works in algebraic geometry, complex geometry, and commutative algebra.

Rekha Thomas was appointed as an Assistant Professor. Her PhD was granted by Cornell University in 1994. Her subject is computational algebra. Before coming to our department, she was an Assistant Professor at Texas A&M.

David Wilson has been appointed Affiliate Assistant Professor. His PhD is from MIT and was earned in 1996. He works in stochastic processes, computer algorithms, probability, and combinatorics. Affiliate professors are persons whose main professional position is outside the department, perhaps in some other department of the university or perhaps at a business or industrial firm. Dr. Wilson is an employee of Microsoft.

Patrick Perkins has been appointed Lecturer and Acting Director of the Department's Math Study Center. He received his PhD from the University of Washington in 1988.

Edward Thayer from Zymogenetics has been appointed Lecturer in our evening program. His subject is computational biology and minimal surfaces. His PhD is from the University of Massachusetts—Amherst, 1994.

Marek Biskup, Peter Garfield, and Daniel Gottesman have also been newly appointed as Lecturers.

## VISITORS

The Department welcomes several visitors this year.

Alexandre Boukhgueim is a Visiting Professor during Autumn Quarter, visiting from the Russian Academy of Sciences in Novosibirsk. His PhD was granted by the Russian Academy of Sciences in 1974. He works on inverse and ill-posed problems in mathematical physics, integral equations, and tomography.

Alicia Canton is a Visiting Postdoctoral Scholar from the University of Madrid and is supported by a fellowship from the Ministry of Education, Spain.

Ana Granados is also a Visiting Postdoctoral Scholar from the University of Madrid. She is supported by a Fullbright Fellowship and a fellowship from the Ministry of Education, Spain.

Federico Marchetti is a Visiting Professor during Autumn Quarter. He is from the University of Turin and received his PhD from the University of Rome in 1968. He studies probabilistic convergence concepts, Brownian motion, and financial mathematics.

Elena Pezzoli is Visiting Assistant Professor from Boston College. Her PhD was granted by Stanford University in 1998. She works in logic and computational complexity, complexity of higher order functionals, lambda calculus and combinatory logic, combinatorics, and biological computation.

Victor Sirvent will be Visiting Associate Professor during Spring Quarter. His subject is dynamical systems, ergodic theory and fractal geometry. He received his PhD from the University of Warwick in 1993. His home institution is the Universidad Simon Bolivar in Caracas.