

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AT AWARDS CEREMONY

On October 19, the Math Department lounge was festive for our first annual Graduate Student Awards Ceremony. This was an opportunity for faculty, staff, students, and friends of the department to applaud the outstanding achievements of some of our most talented graduate students.

Highlighting the occasion were the announcements of some new awards: the Math Department's Excellence in Teaching Awards (initiated last year), and Academic Excellence Awards, given for the first time this year. A total of eight students were honored with one or both of these awards. The Excellence in Teaching Awards were presented to the graduate students whose performance as teaching assistants in entry-level courses during 1999-2000 was most outstanding, based on feedback from their students and faculty supervisors. Each award comes with a \$1000 supplementary stipend. This year's winners were:

- Amy Ehrlich (third-year PhD student from Indiana University),
- Alexandra Nichifor (fourth-year PhD student from Jersey City State College).

The winners of last year's Excellence in Teaching Awards were also recognized at the ceremony: Avanti Athreya, Assad Ebrahim, and Shane Horner.

The Academic Excellence Awards were new this year. Created with funds from the Allendoerfer endowment (named after Carl B. Allendoerfer, chairman of this department in the 1950's and well known for his research in differential geometry) and the Graduate Support Fund (funded by donations from math department faculty members, partially matched by contributions from Microsoft Corporation), these awards were given to the PhD students whose performance in core courses and preliminary exams during 1999-2000 was most outstanding. Each of these awards also comes with a \$1000 supplementary stipend. This year's winners of the Faculty Academic Excellence Awards were:

- Robert Hladky (second-year student from Oxford)
- Joan Lind (third-year student from Augustana College)
- Keir Lockridge (second-year student from Rice)
- Jason Swanson (second-year student from UW)

The winners of the Allendoerfer Academic Excellence Awards were

- Amy Ehrlich (third-year student from Indiana University),
- Gregory Markowsky (second-year student from Univ. of Maine),
- Younggu Moon (second-year student from Yonsei Univ., Korea).

A number of other awards were recognized at the ceremony:

McFarlan Fellowships: Funded by a bequest from Lee McFarlan, a former member of the Math Department, these awards go to advanced PhD students who have shown outstanding performance in our graduate program and impressive achievements in their dissertation research. Each award consists of three quarters of fellowship support without teaching duties. The recipients for 2000-2001 are:

- Robbie Mouat (sixth-year student from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, studying dynamics with Selim Tuncel),
- Alexandru Tamasan (fourth-year student from Babes-Bolyai University in Romania, studying inverse problems with Gunther Uhlmann).

ACMS/VIGRE Fellowships: three-year awards consisting of eight months of fellowship support each year without teaching duties, funded by a \$2.7 million grant from the National Science Foundation's VIGRE (Vertical Integration Grants for Research and Education) program. New ACMS/VIGRE fellows for 2000-2001 are:

- Matthew Blair (first-year student from Michigan State),

- Christina Merten (first-year PhD student from Univ. of Texas at Dallas),

- Jesse Ratzkin (sixth-year PhD student from Berkeley, studying differential geometry with Dan Pollack).

In addition, the following PhD students have continuing ACMS/VIGRE fellowships that were awarded last year:

- Daniel Fox (fifth-year student from Harvard, studying geometric measure theory with Tatiana Toro),

- Christopher Green (second-year student from Washington U.),
- Marshall Hampton (sixth-year student from Stanford, studying classical mechanics with Robin Graham),

- Michael Van Opstall (third-year student from Hope College, studying several complex variables with Robin Graham).

ARCS Fellowships: These are three-year \$15,000 cash supplements awarded by the ARCS (Achievement Rewards for College Scientists) Foundation to assist in recruiting top-notch graduate students. This year's new ARCS fellow is:

- Davis Doherty (first-year student from Rochester).

In addition,

- Jason Swanson (second-year student from UW) has a continuing ARCS fellowship originally awarded in 1999.

Microsoft Scholar Awards: four-year \$20,000 cash awards funded by a generous gift to the department from Microsoft Research, also to help recruit outstanding PhD students. There are currently four Microsoft Scholars in the department. New for 2000 are the following students:

- Kris Kissel (first-year student from Univ. of Pittsburgh),
- David Maxwell (first-year student from Waterloo),
- Hui Xu (first-year student from Wuhan Univ., China);

and continuing from 1999 is:

- Robert Hladky (second-year student from Oxford).

Graduate School Merit Awards: These are one-time \$5,000 recruitment awards funded by the UW graduate school to further enhance our ability to recruit the best graduate students. This year's recipients are:

- Jesse Groman (first-year student from Oberlin),
- James Harmon (first-year student from MIT),
- Edwin O'Shea (first-year student from University College, Cork, Ireland),
- Michael Story (first-year student from Univ. of Chicago).

NPSC Fellowships: Funded by the National Physical Science Consortium and awarded on the basis of a national competition, these awards provide full fellowship support for up to six years in a participating doctoral program in the physical sciences (including mathematics). One of this year's sixteen NPSC fellowships went to UW math PhD student

- Sarah Brown (first-year student from Oberlin).

These students all worked extremely hard for these accomplishments and continue to work extremely hard as they pursue their goals of graduate degrees in mathematics. Everyone in the department can be proud of their accomplishments. The private donations that fund these awards are a precious resource for the mathematics department, and are invaluable in encouraging mathematics students at crucial points in their careers as well as compensating in some small measure for the inadequacy of the TA salaries we are able to pay. It is gratifying to note that the amount of funding for graduate student support has increased in recent years, with the new Hewitt Fund and Faculty Endowment (which will be added to the list of sources of support next year). We deeply appreciate the continuing generosity of our friends in supporting mathematics graduate education.