

SIMUW: SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR MATHEMATICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

In June, 2002, the department received a substantial anonymous gift from a generous couple that will provide two years of funding for a new program, the Summer Institute for Mathematics at the University of Washington, or SIMUW. This program is intended for talented high school students from Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia and will bring twenty-four of them to campus for six summer weeks to study mathematics with faculty, special lecturers, graduate students, and undergraduate counselors. A program proposal, developed by Ron Irving and Jim Morrow last winter, was presented to the donors and received with enthusiasm. Thanks to the gift, students will be able to participate at no cost. Instruction, room, board, and social activities are all covered.

Within the typical high school curriculum, a student has limited opportunities to acquire a full appreciation of the nature of mathematics: its wide-ranging content, the intrinsic beauty of its ideas, the nature of mathematical argument and proof, and the surprising power of mathematics within the sciences and beyond. Getting a glimpse of the depth and beauty of mathematics can be a transforming experience for a student, whatever interests the student may intend to pursue in the future. SIMUW is intended to provide talented, enthusiastic students with just such a glimpse. The mathematical topics studied are accessible, yet of sufficient sophistication to be challenging, allowing students to participate in the experience of mathematical inquiry and be immersed in the world of mathematics.

The first SIMUW program will run for six weeks in the summer of 2003, from June 22nd to August 3rd. The co-directors of the program are Ron Irving, Sándor Kovács, and Jim Morrow. Four departmental faculty members will serve as instructors – Tim Chartier, David Collingwood, Sándor Kovács, and Virginia Warfield. In addition, Henry Cohn, an affiliate assistant professor in the department and a member of the Theory Group at Microsoft Research, will serve as an instructor, as will Robert Pollack, a postdoctoral department member last year who is now at the University of Chicago. Each instructor will work with the students for two weeks, helping the students attack a variety of stimulating but elementary problems. The instructors will lecture to a limited extent, in order to provide necessary background, but the emphasis will be on giving the students the opportunity to tackle hard mathematical problems in collaboration with the staff.

One weekday of each week there will be a special program featuring a speaker from the campus or the region who will discuss the role mathematics plays in his or her work. The lecture will serve simultaneously to provide the students with a break from their work during the rest of the week and to open vistas on subjects that lie ahead. Ten such guests are scheduled at this time, including Judith Arms, Pat Averbeck, Eric Babson, Tatiana Toro, and Gunther Uhlmann from the department. Also featured are Tom Daniel from Biology, Nathan Kutz from Applied Mathematics, Richard Ladner from Computer Science and Engineering, Kristin Lauter from Microsoft Research, and Brian Marcus, the chair of the mathematics department at the University of British Columbia.

More information on SIMUW can be found at the website <http://www.math.washington.edu/~simuw/index.html>.

PROMOTIONS



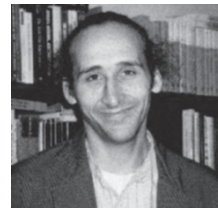
Steffen Rohde



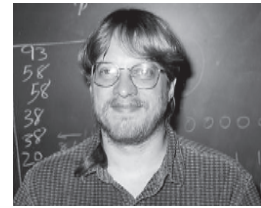
Tatiana Toro

During the academic year 2001-2002, the Department promoted Steffen Rohde and Tatiana Toro from Associate Professor to Professor. Professor Rohde works in complex analysis. Professor Toro works in analysis and geometric measure theory.

The Department promoted Sándor Kovács and John Palmieri from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor. Professor Kovács works in algebraic geometry and Professor Palmieri works in algebraic topology and representation theory.



Sándor Kovács



John Palmieri

NEW FACULTY

This year the Department welcomes three new faculty members.

Lisa Korf (Assistant Professor) PhD University of California, Davis, 1998. Professor Korf's subject is stochastic optimization.

Sara Billey (Associate Professor-on leave this year), PhD University of California, San Diego, 1994. Professor Billey's mathematical work is in the subject of algebraic combinatorics, Lie theory, and computational algebraic geometry.

Manfred Einsiedler (Acting Assistant Professor), PhD Vienna University, 1999. Professor Einsiedler works on dynamical systems and higher dimensional dynamics.



Lisa Korf



Sara Billey



Manfred Einsiedler