UCD GRADUATE SHARES TOP MATHS PRIZE

Dr Colm Mulcahy, Associate Professor of Mathematics at Spelman College, Atlanta, USA, shared the 1997 Carl B. Allendoerfer Award for expository writing in *Mathematics Magazine* with Lin Tan of West Chester University. This prestigious award was established in 1976 by the Mathematical Association of America.

Dr Mulcahy, from Leopardstown, Co. Dublin, received his B. Sc. and M. Sc. in mathematics from University College Dublin in 1978 and 1979, respectively. He is one of the youngest graduates to have achieved an honours M. Sc. in Europe, being conferred at the age of only 20. His doctoral work was done at Cornell University and at Dortmund Universität under the supervision of Alex F. T. W. Rosenberg and was completed in 1985.

The award was given for the article "Plotting and scheming with wavelets," which appeared in *Mathematics Magazine* **69**, December 1996. The citation states that "Mulcahy's article is an admirable piece of work, presenting this topic now at a level fully accessible to undergraduate students and to the uninitiated mathematicians of all backgrounds. Mulcahy writes with clarity, charm, and humour so that the reader is irresistibly drawn into the fundamental problems and solutions for both humans and computers."

In his response at the MAA award giving ceremony in August 1997, Colm Mulcahy recalled his earlier training in University College Dublin, as follows: "I'd like to thank my teachers at University College Dublin, especially Michael Manning, Tom Laffey, Fergus Gaines, Ted Hurley, Dave Lewis, Don McQuillan and the late Maurice Kennedy, as well as my advisor Alex F. T. W. Rosenberg at Cornell, for the high standards of exposition to which they exposed me early in life."

Dr Mulcahy has been a frequent visitor to his native Dublin and he hosts a popular radio show on Irish culture every Sunday afternoon in the Atlanta area. His initial research area was abstract algebra, but in recent years he has become equally involved in computer-aided design, image processing, computer graphics, and wavelets.