FOREIGN MEMBERSHIP

The Irish Mathematical Society has decided to launch a membership recruitment drive amongst mathematicians based abroad. At present we have a small number of members in this category and we are confident that this can be greatly increased, especially by making the Society known to Irish people in the mathematics departments of overseas universities and colleges.

Foreign membership, which is available on the same basis as home membership, ensures regular contact with the Irish mathematical scene through the Newsletter.

Existing members, who know of colleagues abroad who may be interested in joining the Society, are requested to send names and addresses to me.

G.M. Enright
Mathematics Department,
Mary Immaculate College,
Limerick, Ireland.

****

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

EUROPEAN MATHEMATICAL COUNCIL

A meeting of the European Mathematical Council took place in Warsaw on August 10, 1982 at the Banach Centre, under the Chairmanship of Professor M.F. Atiyah. Delegates from nineteen European Mathematical Societies attended. The Irish Mathematical Society was represented by Finbarr Holland who prepared this report.

1. Chairman's address:

In his opening remarks, the Chairman recalled the origins of the European Mathematical Council, reminding those present that it was a loosely structured body of representatives of European Mathematical Societies working together for the mutual benefit of the entire European mathematical community, and reviewed its activities.

2. European Mathematical Newsletter

This is prepared and circulated every 3 months on request to mathematical societies by the Mathematisches Forschungsinstitut, Oberwolfach; it contains information about forthcoming mathematical conferences and other items of common interest.

Information for inclusion in the Newsletter should be sent, in the first instance, to

Professor M. Barner,
Mathematical Institute, Hebelstr. 29,
D-7800 Freiburg/Br.,
German Federal Republic.

3. European Directories:

It was announced that, by August 11th, 1982, eleven European Societies, including the Irish Mathematical Society, had compiled either national or regional directories of mathematicians working in their country or region.

Information about these directories is available from Professor A. Dold, Math. Institut Universität, Im Neuenheimer Feld 288, D-6900 Heidelberg 1.

4. Research Reports:

Professor P.C. Baayen outlined a proposal from the Librarian of the Mathematical Centre, Amsterdam, concerning the collection and distribution of information about such reports. The librarian has offered to include

information about any research reports, including dissertations and preprints, which he receives free of charge from Mathematics Departments, in the acquisitions lists which are issued by the Centre, eight times a year. In return, copies of these acquisitions lists will be circulated free of charge to cooperating departments. Other interested departments may also be included on the mailing list to receive the acquisitions lists.

This news was welcomed and societies were asked to encourage mathematics departments to participate in the scheme.

The address to write to is:-

Stichting Mathematisch Centrum, Kruslaan 413

NL-1098 SJ Amsterdam.

5. Coordination of Conferences:

Council felt that it was a worthwhile exercise to try and avoid overlapping of Conferences dealing with the same topics and Professor László Márki, Mathematical Institute, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, H-1053 Budapest, Reáltanoda, N.13-15., offered to continue to act as a "match-maker" for people thinking of organising meetings. Organisers of future meetings are asked to clear their dates with Professor Marki as early as possible.

6. Publications Committee

A committee was formed to look into the economic, technological and storage problems, both long and short term, facing mathematical publications. The committee was also asked to examine the possibility of very fast publication of abstracts of recent work.

John J.H. Miller was nominated to serve on this committee.

7. Survey Articles:

Council set up a committee to (i) stimulate the writing of good quality survey articles, (ii) referee the incoming manuscripts and (iii) suggest suitable journals which would publish these surveys.

Finbarr Holland

****

INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICAL UNION

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Ninth General Assembly of the International Mathematical Union was held as planned in Warsaw, Poland, on Sunday and Monday, August 8 and 9, 1982. It was well attended by about 100 people, made up of members of the Executive Council and delegates from 36 of the 50 members of the Union. Finbarr Holland represented Ireland.

The President of the Polish Academy of Sciences welcomed the delegates prior to the opening session on Sunday morning and invited them to a reception in Radziejowice, a village about 40 km from Warsaw, at the conclusion of their business on Monday.

In his Presidential Address, Professor Lennart Carlesen, expressed thanks to the Polish Authorities for the opportunity of holding the meeting in Warsaw; reported that Berkeley, California would host the 1986 Congress; announced the winners of the Fields Medals and the new Nevanlinna Prize in Information Science (for details, see the last issue of the Newsletter); outlined some suggestions to counter the rising cost of mathematical journals and emphasised the need for closer cooperation between workers in different branches of mathematics.

For the guidance of the Executive Committee, Sunday afternoon was completely devoted to an explanation of the reasons why the 1982 Congress was postponed and an examination of the prospects for holding it in August 1983.

The Chairman of the Organising Committee for the 1982 Congress, Professor Czeslaw Olech, reviewed the work done in preparation for the Congress and reported that everything was going according to plan until December 13, 1981, when martial law was imposed. Thereafter, prices shot up, goods were rationed, currency was devalued, factors which militated against holding it in August 1982. He and many of his Polish colleagues felt nevertheless that it should have been held then or cancelled altogether and wondered what changes in the present situation prevailing in Poland would make it any easier to hold it in Warsaw next year.

Professor George Mostow, leader of the U.S. delegation, expressed concern that many of his American colleagues might not attend the 1983 Congress unless martial law was lifted and civil liberties were restored to all mathematicians and scientists currently in detention witout trial. This view was shared by the French delegation who circulated a document

to the assembled delegates listing four conditions which would have to be met before they would encourage their fellow countrymen to attend.

On the other hand, members of delegations from Warsaw Pact countries were strongly of the opinion that it could and should be held in Warsaw next year. In particular, the members of the Polish delegation were all in favour, albeit for different reasons. (Professor Andrzej Schinzel, reminded his colleagues in other countries that for 2,000 years it was considered a charitable act to feed the poor and to visit the sick and the imprisoned!)

Almost without exception, every other delegation present, expressed the hope that it would take place in Warsaw next year. The Executive Committee will take a final decision on the matter in November.

It was decided that, in any case, the Proceedings of the Congress would be published.

The remaining business of the Assembly, conducted on Monday, included (i) the adoption of the financial reports for the years 1978-81 (ii) increasing the dues for the period 1983-1986 (iii) approving the budget for 1983-1986; (iv) the elections of members to the Executive Commitee of IMU (President, Jürgen Moser; Secretary, Olli Lehto), the Executive Committee of ICMI (President, Jean Pierre Kahane; Secretary, A.G. Hanson) and the Commission on Development and Exchange (Chairman, H. Hogbe-Nlend); (v) passing a number of resolutions, one expressing "warm gratitude to the Organising Committee for its hospitable reception, excellent arrangements and admirable frankness".

Finbarr Holland
Mathematics Department,
University College, Cork.

****

LIMERICK REPORTS

MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE LIMERICK

Mary Immaculate is the Limerick College of Education for student teachers for the primary schools. It was founded in 1898 and became a Recognised College of the National University of Ireland in 1974. The new B.Ed. degree replaced the old-style N.T. qualification at that time. The Mathematics Department was founded in 1975.

All undergraduates follow a three-year course of studies for the B.Ed. degree, consisting of Education, theoretical and practical, and one elective subject chosen from the range; Irish, English, History, Geography, Mathematics, Philosophy, French, Music. Two additional subjects from this list are taken in first year.

The Bachelor of Education degree programme in mathematics, like most primary degree courses in mathematics, centres around the core areas of Algebra and Analysis. Several aspects of these subjects are explored, including the Theory of Groups and Rings, Vector Spaces and Matrix Theory, Real and Complex Analysis. Self-contained units on Computer Studies and Statistics are also included. Options, such as Geometry, Number Theory, History of Mathematics and Differential Equations, are sometimes available in third year. The College's newly established Computer Centre is used not only for Computer Programming courses but also as a computational aid in conjunction with tutorial classes in other areas.

The pass standard in B.Ed. degree mathematics is equivalent to pass B.A. while students who achieve honours are within one year of M.A. Qualifying or B.A. Honours level. A recent graduate of Mary Immaculate College has just been conferred with a first class honours M.A. degree in mathematics from University College Cork.

There is a staff of three in the Mathematics Department at Mary Immaculate College;

Gerard Enright	B.Sc.University College, Galway
(Head of Department)	M.Sc. University College, Galway
	Ph.D. Cambridge University.
Patrick O'Sullivan	B.Sc. St. Patrick's College, Maynooth
(Lecturer)	M.Sc. St. Patrick's College, Maynooth
	Ph.D. St. Patrick's College, Maynooth
Diarmuid O'Driscoll	B.Sc. University College, Cork
(Lecturer)	M.Sc. University College, Cork

THOMOND COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION.

Thomond College of Education incorporates the former National College of Physical Education. The Oireachtas conferred statutory authority on the College through the Thomond College of Education Act 1980. The College now provides degree level courses for teachers in Physical Education, Wood and Building Technology, Metalwork Technology and General and Rural Science. In addition the College offers a one year Graduate Diploma in Business Education.

DEGREE PROGRAMMES

The four year B.A. degree programme, unlike the other College programmes, is designed to bring students to teaching competency in two areas namely Physical Education and an Elective. Students on this programme must select one of five options from English Studies, Irish, Geography, Science Studies/Chemistry and Mathematical Studies. The student studies his 'elective' in each of the four years. There is a mathematics component in each of the other three degree programmes, Metalwork Technology being the most extensive.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

The role of mathematics in Thomond College has evolved over the years. Presently the mathematics department which comprises three full-time and one part-time member is charged with responsibility for:

1. Developing, teaching, examining the Mathematical Studies Elective in the B.A. programme.
2. Providing service programmes for each of the Woodwork and Building Technology, Metalwork Technology and General and Rural Science degree programmes.
3. Developing and administering computer facilities and courses.
4. Providing in-service courses for second level mathematics teachers.
5. Research.

From a mathematics point of view the Mathematical Studies elective is the most demanding. It is a 600 hour programme spread over four years and includes courses in Analysis, Modern Algebra, Transformation Geometry, Statistics, Computing, Graph theory and History of Mathematics. The service mathematics may be broadly described as engineering mathematics.

(a) COMPUTER FACILITIES

The department runs a fairly extensive computer facility which includes a micro-computer laboratory and 8 terminals linked to the NIHE (L) VAX II/780. Students on all degree programmes learn computing.

(b) CAMET (Ireland)

CAMET (Ireland), the Centre for Advancement of Mathematical Education in Technology established at Thomond College in 1979 is affiliated to CAMET, Loughborough University of Technology, U.K. and directed by the head of the mathematics department. Through this association CAMET (Ireland) offers opportunities for obtaining higher degrees by research (part-time) to selected experienced mathematics teachers in Irish schools. Currently three teachers are registered for an M.Phil. degree and one for a Ph.D.

STAFF

Currently there are three full-time staff members and one part-time. They are:

Jim Leahy (Lecturer)	B.Sc. (Extern) London University M.Sc. University College Cork.
Eoghan MacAogain (Lecturer)	B.A. Trinity College Dublin M.Sc. Warwick University Graduate Diploma in Electronics NIHE(L)
John O'Donoghue (Senior Lecturer/Head of Department)	B.S. St. John Fisher College, Rochester, N.Y. M.S. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y. Ph.D. Loughborough University of Technology.

****

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

The mathematics group at NIHE, Limerick provides teaching in the areas of mathematics, statistics and numerical analysis for all programmes in the institute including business studies, humanities, engineering and applied science.

The group is also responsible for a degree programme in Applied Mathematics (Industrial and Management) with the objective of producing graduates capable of applying analytical skills in the planning and con-

trol of business and industrial activities. The programme involves elements of business studies and engineering science integrated with courses in mathematics, statistics, operations research, systems theory and computer studies. There are two periods of industrial placement, each of six months duration, included in the four year programme. There is a current enrolment of 7 students in fourth year, 15 in third year, 20 in second year and 25 in first year. The first graduates appear in 1983.

Post-graduate activity is beginning with the first students registered for masters degrees by thesis.

The Graduateship of the Institute of Mathematical Applications has been offered on a part-time basis at night. To date approximately ten students have successfully completed Part I; two have completed Part II and a group of six took the Part II examinations in September 1982.

The mathematical activity at NIHE, Limerick is mainly of an applied nature which is reflected in the expertise and interests of the mathematics staff who are:

Dr. P.F. Hodnett	(Senior Lecturer, Applied Mathematics; Fluid Mechanics)
Mr. M. Wallace	(Senior Lecturer, Statistics)
Dr. R. Critchley	(Lecturer, Applied Mathematics; Quantum Mechanics)
Dr. M. Burke	(Lecturer, Applied Mathematics; Control Theory)
Mr. J. Buckley	(Lecturer, Statistics)
Mr. D. Tocher	(Lecturer, Applied Mathematics; Operations Research)
Dr. J. Kinsella	(Assistant Lecturer, Applied Mathematics; Numerical Analysis)
Mr. G. Lessells	(Assistant Lecturer, Applied Mathematics; Functional Analysis)
Mr. A. Hegarty	(Assistant Lecturer, Applied Mathematics; Numerical Analysis)
Mr. B. Kelly	(Teaching Assistant, Mathematics)

****

PERSONAL ITEMS

Dr. Richard Aron has returned to the Mathematics Department at T.C.D. after a sabbatical year at Kent State University, Ohio.

Prof. Sean Dineen has been appointed Head of the Department of Mathematics, U.C.D.

Dr. Desmond Fanning has been appointed to a lecturing position at the Mathematics Department, U.C.C. Dr. Fanning works on Block Designs; is a graduate of U.C.G. and received his Ph.D. at Westfield College, London.

Dr. Padraic Houston will take up a Postdoctoral Fellowship at T.C.D. in January 1983. He is presently at Uni. Paris-Sud and was at CERN until recently.

Dr. Dennis O'Brien is spending this academic year at the Mathematical Physics Department U.C.D. He spent the past few years at Q.U.B.

Dr. Johannes Siemons has been appointed to a position at the Mathematics Department, U.C.D. Dr. Siemons spent the past two years at U.C.C.

Dr. Richard Ward of T.C.D. will take up an appointment at Durham University in January 1983.

Travelling Studentship in Mathematical Science 1982

Eugene Curtin, B.Sc. (U.C.D.)

Prizes were awarded to:-

Clare C. Cunningham, B.Ed., M.A. (U.C.C.)

Eugene G. Gath, B.Sc. (U.C.D.)

Kevin M. Hutchinson, B.A. (U.C.D.)

Mary A. MacDonough, B.Sc. (U.C.G.)

Fiacre A O Cairbre, B.Sc. (Maynooth)

****