Mr. McGrattan was follwed by Mr. Francis Douglas of tne U.C.C. Education Department who talked about teaching mathematics creatively to ordinary and mathematically talented students. He emphasised the importance of encouraging divergent thinking and generalisation on the part of students in their approach to problem-solving and illustrated his points with examples from the teaching of conic sections and the volume of regular shapes. He also outlined a viewpoint on the role of the teacher in catering for the mathematically talented students.

For the final session Miss Catherine Mulryan of the Education Department in St. Patrick's College, Dublin, presented the findings of an analysis of four mathematics textbook series currently in use in Irish primary schools. The study examined the textbooks under the following headings: content coverage and continuity, presentation and consolidation, readability and technical characteristics such as use of colour, type size etc. The results indicated substantial differences among the four series of textbooks on all of these groups of characteristics.

The large attendance and the number of positive comments in the follow-up questionnaire suggested that there is much interest among mathematics teachers in the area of mathematics education.

Sean Close (Hon. Sec., Irish Mathematics Teachers Association),
Department of Education,
St. Patrick's College,
Drumcondra,
Dublin 9.

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Finite Element Programming with Special Emphasis on Semiconductor Device and Process Modelling, Galway, Ireland, June 13-14, 1983

In association with the NASECODE III Conference, an International Short Course on Finite Element Programming with special emphasis on Semiconductor Device and Process Modelling will be held in the Great Southern Hotel, Galway, Ireland on June 13th and 14th, 1983. The conference itself will take place on the three subsequent days.

The 16 invited lecturers are:

T. Arnborg	Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm
K. Board	University College, Swansea
A.R. Boothroyd	Carleton University, Ottawa
W.T. Cochran	Bell Laboratories, Allentown
W.T. Coffey	Trinity College, Dublin
R.W. Dutton	Stanford University, Stanford
W. Fichtner	Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill
A.F. Kravchenko	Institute of Semiconductor Physics, Novosibirsk
P. Mole	General Electric, Wembley
E. Palm	Catholic Unversity of Louvain, Louvain la Neuve
D.N. Pattanayak	Rockwell International Corporation, Anaheim
D.J. Rose	Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill
M. Rudan	Institute of Electronics, Bologna
A.V. Rzanov	Academy of Science, Novosibirsk
C.W. Trowbridge	Rutherford Laboratories, Didcot
N.N. Yanenko	Institute for Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, Novosibirsk

Each lecturer will present a tutorial or review lecture on a topic in which he has a special interest or knowledge. The course will be suitable therefore both to those people wishing to enter this area for the first time, and to those who feel the need for a review of recent results in areas other than their own.

An exhibition of relevant books, journals and mathematical software will be held in conjunction with the short course.

For a complete programme of the Short Course and the Conference please contact:

NASECODE III Secretariat,

c/o Boole Press Ltd.,

P.O. Box 5,

51 Sandycove Road,

Dun Laoghaire.

Co. Dublin,

Telephone 808025.

Summer School on Combinational Optimization

This Summer School will be held at the National Institute for Higher Education, Dublin, from July 4th to July 15th,1983.

Each of the invited speakers will deliver an introductory lecture on his chosen area and a lecture devoted to recent research in this area. A limited number of contributed papers will complement the invited papers.

The following list of topics to be covered is liable to some modification: Vehicle Routeing, Distribution Problems, Polyhedral Combinatorics, Probabilistic Analysis of Determin-istic and Probabilistic Algorithms, Networks and (Poly)Matr-oids, Parallel Algorithms for Combinatorial Problems, Integer Programming (Decomposition Methods), Integer Programming (L.P. Based Methods), Polytopes and Complexity, Scheduling and Comp-lexity, Blocking and Antiblocking.

The invited speakers include: N. Christofides (London), M.L. Fisher (Philadelphia), M. Grotschel (Bonn), R.M. Karp (Berkeley), E.L. Lawler (Berkeley), J.K. Lenstra (Amsterdam), G.L. Nemhauser (Ithaca), M.W. Padberg (New York), C.H. Papad-imitriou (Athens), A.H.G. Rinnooy Kan (Rotterdam), L.E. Trotter (Ithaca).

For further information contact Secretariat, Summer School on Combinatorial Optimization, N.I.H.E., Glasnevin, Dublin 9.

Galway Group Theory Conference

The next Group Theory conference at University College, Galway, will be held on May 13th, 14th, 1983. The list of speakers includes:

Peter Cameron (Oxford)

Gerard Enright (Limerick)

John Hannah (Galway)

Colin Walter (Dublin)

Richard Watson (Maynooth)

For information contact Dr. T. Hurley, Mathematics Department, University College, Galway.