

EDITORIAL

This issue of the Bulletin contains a variety of special features. The celebration of the Hamilton Year in 2005 is reflected in two articles; of course, it would have been nice to have even more available. The achievements of another eminent Irish mathematician were honoured at the “Westfest” at Trinity College last December; and three papers in this volume pay special tribute to Trevor West.

Links with other mathematical societies become increasingly more important. It is therefore a very welcome initiative by the IMS president to approach the Société Mathématique de France (SMF) with the aim to begin a closer collaboration. An article by the SMF president, Professeur Marie-Françoise Roy, describes the present activities of the SMF and future plans of the society.

A detailed response of the Royal Irish Academy Committee for Mathematical Sciences to the recent NCCA Review of Mathematics in Post-Primary Education gives many answers to questions on present-day mathematics that have been, and will be, asked in other contexts.

Next to the “Conference Announcements” the reader will find a new section on “Reports on IMS supported Conferences”. More and more conference organisers approach the IMS Committee with a request for partial support of a meeting organised in the South or the North of Ireland. The Executive (that is, the president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer) thus have decided to ask organisers to provide the Bulletin with a report on the academic activities and achievements of their meeting. Three—very different—examples of such reports are contained herein.

Another new section, also suggested by the Executive, shall be started with the next issue of the Bulletin. Abstracts of PhD theses

conferred by Irish universities shall be published in the future (that is, from 2006 on). The editor will send out precise instructions later this year; in any case, these abstracts should be clear and concise and will be restricted to one page length.

In addition to the great diversity of contributions in this volume, the editor is particularly pleased with the growing number of submissions by Irish or Ireland-based authors. Keep this up!

—MM