

EDITORIAL

It is a great sadness to me and to many in the Irish mathematical community that we have lost Jim Flavin, who for as long as I can remember was a constant support to younger mathematicians and who embodied the highest standards in Applied Mathematics. His work on nonlinear differential equations was world-class. MathSciNet lists 57 papers¹. His love and support for the Irish language were also well-known, and as a member of the scientific committee of An Coiste Téarmaíochta he invested a great deal of time and attention in publications such as ‘Foclóir Eolaíochta’ (Eagrán Méadaithe, An Gúm 1994) and ‘Téarmaí Ríomhaireachta’ (An Gúm 1990), which are vital supports for those who wish to conduct scientific discourse in the language. He was working lately on an expanded biography of Pádraig De Brún, that colourful and passionate polymath, prankster, poet and visionary, the only full professor of mathematics so far arrested for plotting the overthrow of the Irish state, who served in Maynooth, DIAS and finally as President of UCG. Jim’s work on the biographical note published on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of DIAS² gathered much valuable material, and it is to be hoped that whatever else he put together more recently can be brought to light.

Matt McCarthy has compiled an obituary note that appears in this issue. *Ní fheicfimid a leithéid arís.*

Following considerable distress and controversy in the mathematical and wider scientific community about a policy shift in Science Foundation Ireland which resulted in the “administrative” rejection of many grant proposals (i.e. rejection before consideration by any scientific peers), the National Committee for Mathematical Science decided to articulate these concerns. The Chair, Richard Timoney, wrote to the SFI chief, Mark Ferguson. A copy of the letter

¹See <http://www.ams.org/mathscinet/search/publications.html?pg1=INDI&s1=67460> (if you have access).

²Irishleabhar Mhá Nuad 1994, pp. 9-32; It was also published in DIAS School of Theoretical Physics 50 Year Report, pp. 10-29 with two photographs and a facsimile of the title-page of De Brún’s thesis

may be viewed on the Royal Irish Academy website³. Earlier, the RIA President, Luke Drury, spoke publicly about the importance of supporting fundamental research in basic science, including mathematics. Dr. Ferguson has agreed to meet Professor Timoney and a delegation, and it is hoped that the situation will improve.

The Bulletin is exchanged for the publications of a good few learned societies. This has the benefit of widening its impact, and the exchange material that comes in is distributed among Irish institutions. In some cases, we are more motivated by the desire to assist poorly-resourced colleagues overseas. Where the incoming journals go is determined by the IMS Committee, taking into account expressed preferences. We have recently agreed a new exchange with for the Iranian Journal of Mathematical Chemistry. We have a run of *Note di Matematica* (published by Universita del Salento) and this has not yet been allocated. Expressions of interest in either periodical are invited. We have long had an exchange with the *Deutsche Mathematiker Vereinigung*. Our Vice-President Martin Mathieu reports that the agreement with the DMV has been extended to a reciprocity agreement that allows members of the IMS to become members of the DMV at a reduced rate (and vice versa).

Tony Wickstead points out errata in the Winter 2011 number: On page 15, the report of Duncan Lawson's talk is cut short (actually in the middle of a line!), and at the foot of page 16, the line 'Martin Stynes, University College Cork' should really have been moved to the top of page 17. I regret these lapses, and will endeavour to do better. If I fail, corrections are always welcome.

In the last issue, I invited schools to send links to contact points for prospective research students in Mathematics. These are the ones that have come in so far:

DCU: Olaf Menkens http://www.dcu.ie/info/staff_member.php?id_no=2659

NUIG: Jim Cruickshank <mailto://jam:es.cruickshank@nuigalway.ie>

NUIM: <http://www.maths.nuim.ie/pghowtoapply>

QUB: http://www.qub.ac.uk/puremaths/Funded_PG_2012.html

³ <http://ria.ie/getmedia/cb045886-692e-4d2c-baba-3760c9507368/Letter-to-SFI.pdf.aspx>

TCD: <http://www.maths.tcd.ie/postgraduate/>

UCD: Nuria Garcia Ordiales <mailto://nuria.garcia@ucd.ie>

UU: <http://www.compeng.ulster.ac.uk/rgs/>

I again invite the remaining schools with Ph.D. programmes in Mathematics to send me their preferred link, a url that works. I remind readers of the print edition that all links are live, and hence may be accessed by a click, in the electronic edition of this Bulletin⁴.

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⁴<http://www.maths.tcd.ie/pub/ims/bulletin/>