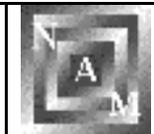


national association of mathematicians



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Newsletter

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CONTENTS

IN THE NEWS

J. Ernest Wilkins at 80

Young African Mathematics Medal Winners

Support AMUCHMA

MLK Visiting Mathematics Professors at MIT

Art and Mathematics Together

NAM in Phoenix

NAM Calendar

NAM Board, Elections and Terms

Edge Summer Program

Job Openings

IN THE NEWS

MSRI will host CAARMS 10 June 22-25. The first CAARMS was held at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute in 1995. It marked a significant opportunity for minority mathematicians and potential mathematicians. In addition to lectures by professional mathematicians, a significant component of CAARMS has been graduate student poster sessions. Many students have received support for travel, and many of these students have later received a Ph.D. in Mathematics.

J. Ernest Wilkins to give the Cox-Talbot Address during NAM's banquet at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Phoenix. Inside see the NAM in Phoenix Schedule. Also see the article J. Ernest Wilkins at 80.

" Although he earned his Ph.D. in 2001, he has published 18 papers since 1998." This quote is from the article on the six winners of the Young African Mathematics Medals: There are, in current location) Olatunde Akinlade, Nigeria; Bamidele Awojogbe, Nigeria; Abba B. Gumel, Canada; Oluwole D. Makinde, South Africa; Guy M. Nkiet, Gabon; James A Oguntuase, ITALY. See expanded article inside. Please join me to congratulate them and wish them greater success in future.

J. Ernest Wilkins at 80

Dr. J. Ernest Wilkins is one of the greatest African American mathematicians. He has three degrees in mathematics and two degrees in Engineering. Dr. J. Ernest Wilkins, Jr. has published more than 100 papers in Mathematics, Physics, and Engineering. Wilkins was the second African American to be named to the National Academy of Engineering.

Recently, the SA Committee and the HRA Committee of the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute met in November at MSRI in Berkeley, California. The sole permanent member of the HRA committee is David Blackwell, other NAM members on the committee were David Ellis, J. Ernest Wilkins, Roselyn Williams, and Scott Williams. MSRI Director David Eisenbud also hosted a celebration recognizing the 80th birthday of J. Ernest Wilkins, jr. In September of 2003, Clark Atlanta had a faculty dinner for Dr. Wilkins recently retired. Dr. Wilkins moved to Chicago, and re-married. Below is a photo from the MSRI event.



YOUNG AFRICAN MATHEMATICS MEDAL WINNERS

In November 17-21 2003, the African Mathematics Union (AMU) and the International Conference of Mathematical Sciences (ICMS) presented medals to a group of promising young African Mathematicians.

Olatunde Akinlade, Mathematical Physics, Department of Physics, Lecturer at the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, NIGERIA. In 1989 he received his PhD. He concentrates his research on the theoretical studies of thermodynamic and structural properties of liquid metals and alloys.

Bamidele Awojogbe, Mathematical Physics; Department of Physics, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria. Although Dr. Awojogbe is a mathematical physicist, he has published in mathematical biology.

Abba B. Gumel, Applied Mathematics; Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics, University of Manitoba, CANADA. In the ten years since his Ph.D., he has published 33 papers in many areas of Applied Mathematics including: Mathematical Biology, Non-linear Dynamical Systems, Computational Mathematics. He has also collaborated with Atlanta University's Ron Mickens.

Oluwole D. Makinde, Applied Mathematics; Professor and Head of Applied Mathematics Department, University of the North, SOUTH AFRICA. Since 1990 Ph.D. he has published five books and 50 articles

Guy M. Nkiet, Statistics; Faculte des Sciences, Universite des Sciences et Techniques de Masuku, GABON. He is also winner of the International Statistical Institute's *Jan Tinbergen* award (best papers of young statisticians from developing countries), Istanbul, 1997. He has published a dozen papers in Statistics.

James A Oguntuase, Pure Mathematics (Analysis); Mathematics Section Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics Trieste, ITALY. Although he earned his Mathematics Ph.D. in 2001, he has published 18 papers since 1999.

All of the above have web pages in Mathematicians of the African Diaspora:
<http://www.math.buffalo.edu/mad>

Support AMUCHMA

For 29 issues, the African Mathematical Union's Commission on the History of Mathematics in Africa (AMUCHMA) has revealed new and interesting mathematical material to the world of history, archeology, and education. The reproduction and distribution of the first 24 issues of the AMUCHMA Newsletter counted with the generous support from the Research Department of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA-SAREC). The contract with SIDA-SAREC came to an end and there is a call for support financially AMUCHMA's activities and/or to suggest alternative sources of financing. The newsletter is free and accessible on the website:
http://www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/AMU/amuchma_online.html

International Conference in Africa

"Some Contemporary Applications of the Mathematical & Computer Sciences to Development Problems" organised by the International Centre for Mathematical & Computer Sciences (ICMCS), Lagos.

MLK Visiting Mathematics Professors at MIT

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Professors are chosen for their contributions to their professions, and their potential contributions to the intellectual life of MIT. The Program is open to individuals of any minority group, with an emphasis on the appointment of African Americans.

Appointments are for no less than one academic term and no longer than two academic years. Appointments can be made at the Assistant, Associate and Full Professor levels in any department. These departments are located in the schools of Science, Engineering, Architecture and Planning, Humanities and Social Science, and the Sloan School of Management. A few of the Visiting Professors can be called mathematicians. Current are Farley and Petters.

Jonathan D. Farley (January 2003-December 2004 -- Mathematics) an assistant professor of mathematics at Vanderbilt University since 1996 is currently a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar at Oxford University, one of four Americans to win the award this year. Farley received the A.B. summa cum laude in mathematics from Harvard University in 1991 and the D. Phil. in 1995. He attended Oxford on a Marshall Scholarship and received the Senior Mathematics Prize and the Johnson Prize. He was chosen as a "Leader of the Future:" by Ebony in 2001. His research involves the theory of ordered sets, lattice theory and discrete mathematics.

Arlie O. Petters (January 2003 - December 2003--Physics Department) received the Ph.D. in mathematics from MIT in 1991. He has been the William and Sue Gross Associate Professor Mathematics at Duke University since 1998 and was named director of undergraduate studies in the department in August 2002. Petters was an assistant professor at Princeton University and a research visitor at Oxford University before joining the Duke faculty. He received the B.A. and the M.A. from Hunter College. He has mentored many minority students at both Duke and Princeton. He received the Service Award from the Princetonians of Color Network in 1996. His research involves mathematical physics, cosmology, singularity theory and differential geometry.

Former mathematician visiting professors are Alfred Noel, 2000-2001 Mathematics; Lloyd Demetrius, 1998-2000 Bioengineering & Environmental Health, Brain & Cognitive Science; Kevin Kornegay, 1997-1998 EECS; Steven Lee, 1995-1997 Mathematics.

Art and Mathematics Together? **by Scott Williams**

In one of my undergraduate classes this term. I introduced both the möbius strip and the klein bottle and, for the first time, the Dutch Artist M. C. Escher, using images downloaded from the web. After we examined some of Escher's illustrations of a line of ants, crawling around a one-sided möbius strip, I spoke briefly on the mathematics involved in some of Escher's more complicated images such as Waterfall (where the water falls into the stream which supplies it), Ascending & Descending (soldiers marching around a square of stairs that manage, through a trick of geometry, to always go up), Sky and Water (where birds morph into fish), and Butterfly (a fractal like image with smaller creatures). This was one of the liveliest classes I taught in years, and the 90% of the students attended the follow-up lecture, a Sunday class held in lieu of a class I missed.

Maurits Cornelius Escher, 1898-1972, had only a high school education in mathematics and little interest in its formalities. Still, he was fascinated by visual mathematical concepts and often featured them in his art. The goal of his art, Escher once wrote in a letter, is not to create something beautiful, but to inspire wonder in his audience. Escher fits at the rank of the great Dutch masters such as van Gogh, Rembrandt, and Vermeer.

While surrealist painters such as Salvador Dali looked at dreams and Rene Magritte probed visual paradoxes, Escher examined the borders of physics and logic - a feature that endeared him especially to scientists and mathematicians. In "Print Gallery, Escher wanted to create a cyclic bulge "having neither beginning nor end." To achieve this, Escher first created the desired distortion with a grid of crisscrossing lines, arranging them so that, moving clockwise around the center, they gradually spread farther apart. You can't do this with straight lines, so he curved them. Then, starting with an undistorted rendition of the quayside scene, he used this curved grid to distort the scene one tiny square at a time.

In earlier works we saw Escher expressing the infinitely small by making images smaller at the center. During the mid 1950s he began to express the idea of infinitely numerous. "Whirlpools" objects shrinking toward the outer edges to express infinitely numerous

A mathematician, Dr. Hendrik Lenstra, a professor at the University of California at Berkeley and at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands, has recently solved several problems arising from Escher's work involving tiling and crystallography.

In addition to the many Escher web sites on the web, I'd recommend the "The World of M. C. Escher," a best-selling collection of his images. For insight into the artist's creative processes, there is "The Magic Mirror of M. C. Escher," a book written (under the pen name of Bruno Ernst) by Hans de Rijk, a friend of Escher's, who visited the artist as he created "Print Gallery."

There are many web pages of Escher's images. In addition, mathematicians and artists have created Escher-like images. Famous in his own right, is Victor Vasarely, .Hungarian/French Abstract Painter, 1908-1997 who does work quite similar to Escher's Print Gallery.

additional reference: Mathematician Fills in a Blank for a Fresh Insight on Art by Sara Robinson, July 30, 2002

<http://www.mcescher.com/>

http://users.erols.com/ziring/escher_bio.htm

http://www.artcyclopedia.com/artists/vasarely_victor.html

NAM in PHOENIX

A schedule of NAM events for the 2004 Joint Mathematics Meetings in Phoenix

Thursday, Jan 8, 6:00 PM - 8:15 PM: Board of Director's Meeting
Chair: President *John W. Alexander, Jr.*, Miami-Dade Community College

Friday, Jan 9, 1 PM - 5 PM: Granville-Browne-Haynes Session of Presentations by Recent Doctoral Recipients in the Mathematical Sciences
Moderator: *William A. Massey*, Princeton University

Friday, Jan 9, 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM: Reception, Banquet, and Cox-Talbot Address
Speaker: *J. Ernest Wilkins*, Clark Atlanta University; Title of Talk: Reflections

Saturday, Jan 10, 9 AM - 9:50 AM: Panel Discussion: Underrepresented Undergraduate Research in the Mathematical Sciences
Moderator: *Fred Bowers*, Spelman College

Saturday, Jan 10, 10 AM - 10:50 AM: Business Meeting
Chair: President *John W. Alexander, Jr.*

Saturday, Jan 10, 2:15 PM - 1:50 PM: Claytor-Woodard Lecture

NAM Calendar

You can find NAM's [Online Conference Calendar](http://www.caam.rice.edu/~nated/orgs/nam/programs/conferences.html) and the most recent links to relevant conferences announcements. at <http://www.caam.rice.edu/~nated/orgs/nam/programs/conferences.html>

- *January 7-10, 2004 Annual AMS Joint Mathematics Meeting, Phoenix Arizona
- *June 22-25, 2004 CAARMS 10, MSRI Berkeley California.

NAM Board, Elections and Terms

As you may recall from the Spring issue 34.1 of this volume, nominations for the NAM Board were due by August 1, 2003. We received no nominations. For your information, I re-print the article from 34.1.

NOMINATIONS (open to members) are due for the NAM Board positions Vice-President, Region B representative, and Majority Institution representative. By August 1, 2003, please contact NAM's election supervisor Dr. Earl Barnes School of Industrial Systems Engineering; Georgia Institute of Technology; Atlanta, GA 30332-0205. Make certain the nominated individual agrees to run. Send vita data such as Name, email address, School, position, and date of last degree.

All members of the Board shall be elected to a term of office for a period of two years and elections shall be staggered for continuity. Regular elections shall occur in the fall of each year and the persons elected shall be duly installed at the first Annual NAM meeting following the election. The term of each elected position is three (3) years. The editor will be an appointed position for a period of three years. The Editor shall be responsible for the production of the Newsletter and shall perform such other duties as the Board of Directors may specify. The Executive Secretary shall be selected to serve for a period of five (5) years and shall begin the term of office at the Spring Board Meeting. His/her selection must be the unanimous choice of the existing Board of Directors.

The election of the members of the Board of Directors shall be by official ballots and shall be supervised by the Board of Director's Committee on Legislation-Nomination when the election is by mail, all current members in good standing in NAM shall be provided a ballot and given reasonable time to return it.

The election cycle is can be followed modulo 3. Year 2001 was year 2 mod 3. It is the election Representative of Region C, Community College Representative, Secretary/Treasurer.
In year 0 mod 3 Representative of Region A, Government/Industry Representative, President
In year 1 mod 3 Representative of Region B, Majority Institution Representative, Vice President.
A call for nominations will be made in the Spring Issue of the Newsletter. Nominations should be made to the Editor by August 15 of the election year.

EDGE Summer Program

Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Science Foundation, the Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE) Program is a post baccalaureate summer enrichment program for women entering graduate programs in the mathematical sciences.

The summer program consists of two core courses in analysis and algebra/linear algebra. There will also be a minicourse, guest lectures, problem sessions, and post-program mentoring.

Applicants should be women who anticipate acceptance into a graduate program or who have just completed their first year of graduate school. All applicants should have a desire to earn a Ph.D. in the mathematical sciences.

In 2004 the program will be held at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia from June 7--July 2, 2004, under the direction of Local Coordinator Dr. Yewande Olubummo. A stipend of \$2,000 plus room and board will be awarded to participants.

The application deadline is March 1, 2004. Please visit our website <http://edgeforwomen.org> for important details or contact the EDGE program coordinator, Diana Campbell: tel. 610.328.2634 email: diana@edgeforwomen.org

JOB OPENINGS

NAM Job Openings Web Site

Recall that for several years, NAM has had a web site with listings of open positions. This process is open to advertisers in the Newsletter. The advertisements appear there six or more weeks before they appear in the Newsletter, since November 15, 2002. Go to the editor's NAM web site within MAD: **<http://www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/NAM/>**

CALVIN COLLEGE

The Calvin College Department of Mathematics and Statistics invites applications for two full-time positions to begin in the fall of 2004. The department hopes to fill one regular tenure-track position and one temporary position, although both are subject to administrative approval. The department seeks candidates who demonstrate strong commitments to excellence in both undergraduate teaching and scholarship. Applications from candidates in statistics are especially solicited, but applicants in all areas of the mathematical sciences will be considered.

The department has 14 full-time faculty members and graduates approximately 20 mathematics majors per year, half of them in the secondary education program. Calvin College is a private four-year college with an enrollment of 4,400 students. It is Christian college in the Reformed tradition and all candidates are expected to support the mission of the college. The college is an equal opportunity employer and strongly encourages applications from women and minority candidates.

To apply, send a cover letter, curriculum vitae, three letters of reference, and a graduate transcript to the address below. In order for the application to be considered, the cover letter must specifically address the ways in which the applicant can support the mission of the college. Send all documents to: Search Committee, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Calvin College, 1740 Knollcrest Circle SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

In the cover letter, please comment on your interest in teaching at an undergraduate college, the balance you seek between teaching and scholarship, and your commitment to the mission of the college. More information about the mission of the college may be found at <http://www.calvin.edu/admin/provost/mission/index.htm>. In order to be considered in the first round, applications must be complete by December 5, 2003, but later applications will be considered until the position is filled.

GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science of Georgia College & State University invites applications for one or more tenure track Assistant Professor positions in mathematics and one Assistant/Associate Professor position in mathematics education. A terminal degree is required for each. Excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service is required for promotion and tenure. Employment would begin August 2004. GC&SU is the state's designated public liberal arts university and is dedicated to excellent undergraduate teaching. For more information about these positions and application instructions see www.gcsu.edu/facultyjobs. To ensure full consideration, applications must be completed by December 8, 2003. GC&SU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNVIERSITY CARBONDALE

ALGEBRA/COMBINATORICS

Applications are invited for a tenure-track position in algebra/combinatorics at the assistant professor level to begin on August 16, 2004. Applicants must have a research program in a field of algebra, number theory or combinatorics, and must demonstrate evidence of, or potential for, excellence both in research and in teaching at both undergraduate and graduate levels. The department is particularly seeking applicants whose research interests augment existing strengths within the department (see www.math.siu.edu/facint.html), and those whose research involves applications of mathematics. Ph.D. in mathematics required by August 15, 2004. Postdoctoral experience preferred. Send letter of application, CV, and three letters of recommendation to: Algebra/Combinatorics Position, Department of Mathematics, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, Illinois 62901-4408.

Review of applications will begin December 8, 2003, and continue until position is filled. SIUC is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer that strives to enhance its ability to develop a diverse faculty and staff and to increase its potential to serve a diverse student population. All applications are welcomed and encouraged and will receive consideration.

NUMERICAL ANALYSIS

Applications are invited for a tenure-track position in numerical analysis at the assistant professor level to begin on August 16, 2004. Applicants must have a research program in numerical analysis, and must demonstrate evidence of, or potential for, excellence both in research and in teaching at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Ph.D. in mathematics required by August 15, 2004. Postdoctoral experience preferred. Send letter of application, CV, and three letters of recommendation to:

Numerical Analysis Position, Department of Mathematics, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, Illinois 62901-4408.

Review of applications will begin December 8, 2003, and continue until position is filled. SIUC is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer that strives to enhance its ability to develop a diverse faculty and staff and to increase its potential to serve a diverse student population. All applications are welcomed and encouraged and will receive consideration.

OHIO UNIVERSITY

Assistant Professor of Topology/Set Theory (Tenure-track)

Applications are being invited for a tenure-track position in topology/set theory at the assistant professor level, beginning September 1, 2004. Applicants must have a Ph.D. in mathematics and demonstrate evidence of excellent teaching ability and outstanding research potential. We seek candidates with research and teaching interests that complement those of current faculty, and who are committed to strengthening our graduate and undergraduate programs.

The salary is competitive, with an excellent fringe benefit package. Review of applications will begin on January 10, 2004.

Send curriculum vitae, outline of research accomplishments and plans, statement on teaching philosophy and experience, and three letters of recommendation to: Chair, Topology/Set Theory Search Committee, Department of Mathematics, 321 Morton Hall, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio 45701-2979.

Candidates may also be asked to provide graduate transcripts.

For details about the department, see <http://www.math.ohiou.edu/> Ohio University is a research-extensive institution enrolling 19,700 students on the Athens campus and more than 8,000 students on five regional campuses.

Further information about the university may be found at <http://www.ohiou.edu/> Ohio University is an Equal Employment Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer.

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE CHAIR

The University of Tennessee Department of Mathematics invites applications for the position of Head. A Ph.D. in Mathematical Sciences is required. The successful candidate should be qualified to be tenured at rank of full professor in the department. Evidence of a distinguished record of research and a commitment to teaching as well as administrative experience should be provided at the time of application. A commitment to supporting both pure and applied mathematics is expected. Strong leadership skills and the ability to work effectively with colleagues, staff, and students are especially important characteristics. Experience with curricular matters, notable activity in professional associations, and experience with generating external funding are highly desirable. The successful candidate will also have an understanding of and demonstrated commitment to equal employment opportunities and affirmative action. The Mathematics Department currently consists of 39 full-time faculty, 30 full and part-time lecturers and 60 full-time graduate students representing both pure and applied mathematics. The faculty has a strong commitment to graduate and undergraduate teaching, is associated with many interdisciplinary programs, and maintains close research relationships with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Applicants should submit a letter of application including current research interests and administrative philosophy, a curriculum vitae, and at least 3 letters of recommendation. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Address material to: Chair, Math Head Search Committee, Department of Mathematics, 121 Ayres Hall, University of Tennessee, Knoxville TN 37996-1300. Review of applications will begin February 1, 2004, and will continue until the position is filled.

The University of Tennessee *is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services.*

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