

EDITORIAL

Mr Éamonn O'Connor retired in 2017, after many years' service in the printing works of the University of Limerick. Members will be aware that the production and distribution of the Bulletin is organised by Gordon Lessells at UL, and he relied on Éamonn for the printing and binding. The Society thought it appropriate to express its appreciation, and a plaque was presented to Éamonn at a ceremony to mark his retirement. In the photograph are Gordon, Éamonn and James Gleeson.



Colm Mulcahy has drawn our attention to the sad story of Francis Dolan. See <https://tinyurl.com/yckuby2r>. The article raises serious issues about the conditions of service of junior academic researchers.

We received no thesis abstracts at all this year, despite an effort to enlist the IMS local representatives to beat the bushes. We take this to mean that the publication of their abstracts is not a priority for new doctoral graduates in Mathematics, although it was reported from one institution that there were 'no theses in real mathematics'. We've concluded that times have changed, and that resources such as institutional and personal web-pages, social media, and ArXiv.org have absorbed the function formerly performed by the publication

of the abstracts. Accordingly, we shall no longer publish thesis abstracts in the Bulletin. Some members feel that the abstracts were of interest in giving us some idea of the range of mathematical activity around the country, and to serve this interest we shall explore the possibility of publishing a brief annual list, giving thesis authors and titles.

In this issue we have, *inter alia*, part I of a substantial survey on curvature and topology by Mark Walsh. Part II is scheduled to appear in the next issue.

Links for Postgraduate Study

The following are the links provided by Irish Schools for prospective research students in Mathematics:

DCU: (Olaf Menkens)

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

DIT: <mailto://chris.hills@dit.ie>

NUIG: <mailto://james.cruickshank@nuigalway.ie>

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

QUB: http://www.qub.ac.uk/puremaths/Funded_PG_2016.html

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

UCC: <http://www.ucc.ie/en/matsci/postgraduate/>

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

UL: <mailto://sarah.mitchell@ul.ie>

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

The remaining schools with Ph.D. programmes in Mathematics are invited to send their preferred link to the editor, a url that works. All links are live, and hence may be accessed by a click, in the electronic edition of this Bulletin¹.

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¹<http://www.irishmathsoc.org/bulletin/>