NEWS

Personal Items

- **Professor Leroy Beasley** of Utah State University in Logan, Utah, is spending a sabbatical year in the Mathematics Department of UCD. Professor Beasley works in Linear Algebra and Finite Group Theory.
- **Professor Jerome Sheahan** of the Statistics Department, University of Alberta, Edmonton, is spending a sabbatical year in the Mathematics Department of UCG. Professor Sheahan works in Statistical Analysis and Probability Theory.
- **Roger Dodd** is currently on leave of absence from the School of Mathematics of TCD; he is visiting Hiroshima University.
- **Graham Ellis** has been appointed to a permanent position in the Mathematics Department of UCG. Dr. Ellis works in Algebraic Topology, Homological Algebra and Algebraic K-Theory.
- **Pat Fitzpatrick** is on leave of absence from the Mathematics Department of UCC for 1987/88. He is spending the year at the University of Toulouse, working with the group there on Algebraic Coding Theory.
- **Ciaran Murphy**, formerly of UCG, has joined the Statistics Department of UCC. His particular interests are Operations Research and Information Systems.
- **Russell Higgs** has been appointed to a permanent position in the Mathematics Department, UCD.
- **Pól Mac Aonghusa** has been appointed to a temporary position in the Mathematics Department of Maynooth College.
- **Philip Murphy** has recently taken up a Department of Education Postdoctoral Fellowship at TCD.

- **Martin Newell** is on sabbatical leave from UCG for 1987/88. He is presently visiting the University of Padua.
- **Aongus Ó Cairbre** has joined the staff of the College of Commerce, Rathmines, Dublin.
- **Noel Gorman** has taken up a temporary position in the School of Mathematics of TCD. Dr. Gorman is on leave from the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies.
- **Daniel O'Regan** has been appointed to a temporary position in the School of Mathematics, TCD.
- **Anthony K. Seda** is on leave of absence from UCC for 1987/88. He will be visiting Bristol University, Imperial College London and Edinburgh University to join the groups there working on formal programming and the use of formal methods in the specification and verification of software.
- **Eamonn O'Brien**, a former UCG student, now studying at the Australian National University, Canberra, was awarded the B.H. Neumann Prize for the best student lecture at the Annual Meeting of the Australian Mathematical Society in May 1987 for his talk "A Computer Based Description of 2−Groups".
- **Mícheál Ó Searcóid** was awarded a Ph. D. in Mathematics at UCC in June this year. His supervisor was Professor Robin Harte. Dr. Ó Searcóid has now taken up a permanent position in the Mathematics Department of UCD.
- **Martin Stynes** of the Mathematics Department, UCC, has been invited to give a keynote lecture at the BAIL V Conference in Shanghai in June 1988.

The Irish Mechanics Society

A meeting of the Irish Mechanics Group was held in UCD in September in conjunction with Campus Ireland. Participants came from Belgium, Canada and Ireland and eleven papers were presented. It was decided to rename the Group as The Irish Mechanics Society, a constitution for which was formally drawn up and ratified. The first official meeting of the new Society will be a conference in UCC in May 1988.

Irish Winner in International Contest

First place in the LOGO Division of the International Computer Problem Solving Contest this year was awarded to 11 year old John Farragher, a sixth class pupil at St. Paul's Primary School in Limerick and a participant in the Mary Immaculate College Computer project for children of high ability in Mathematics.

The International Contest is organised annually by the University of Wisconsin and it mainly involves computer programming problems for second level students. The inclusion of a LOGO Division for children under thirteen in this year's Seventh Annual Contest reflects the ever-increasing use of computers and the particular interest in LOGO in primary schools. A LOGO Division for the under sixteen age group is planned for inclusion in the 1988 Contest.

John was selected when Dr. Pat O Sullivan asked all school principals in Limerick City to send two or three sixth class children of higher than average mathematical ability to the College for testing. Dr. O Sullivan was organising the special LOGO project for mathematically bright children for Mary Immaculate College which is conducted in association with St. Patrick's College Drumcondra. John was one of the eighteen children who came out of the screening process and undertook an eleven-week intensive LOGO course taught by Pat O Sullivan and Dr. Gerard Enright. In April he and fellow pupil Ryan Meade entered as separate teams at the Dublin venue of the International Contest.

The contest was in the form of a two-hour practical examination held at the Holy Faith School in the Coombe and organised for the Computer Education Society of Ireland by Mr. Michael Brady. Using Commodore 64 computer equipment, John solved the five problems with which he was presented in about an hour and a half and he spent the remaining thirty minutes checking his solutions. John Farragher won that event, Ryan Meade was placed third and John's entry was sent to the University of Wisconsin for ranking amongst 370 teams from all over the United States and from several other countries. A few weeks later everyone associated with John and with the Irish section was delighted to hear that he had won first place in the world.

The Computer Education Society of Ireland has been active for many years in the promotion of the use of computers in schools and in recent years it has paid particular attention to encouraging such development at primary level. Mary Immaculate College, through its Department of Mathematics and Computer Studies, is also playing a central role in this area of curriculum development. The College provides courses not only for its own undergraduate students but also for practising teachers in the Mid-West Region. It also undertakes a major programme of experimental research with local school children and it has initiated a one-year teachers' course for a Diploma in Computer Studies which is acting as a very effective catalyst in primary school activities.

The Harte's A Wonder

Marcel Dekker recently published "Invertibility and Singularity for Bounded Linear Operators" by Robin Harte, price $119.50 (ISBN 0–8247–7754–9). We quote from the author's own description of the contents:

> The Doctor tells all: Normed spaces as you have never seen them before.
> Out of the Closet: Almost open mappings and the boring truth behind the Open Mapping theorem.
> Enlargements: Linear operators laid bare.
> Compact Operators: Small but perfectly formed.
> Fredholm Operators: Algebra is no laughing matter.
> Almost Exactness: A contradiction in terms?
> Joint Spectra: Joseph Taylor and his technicolour dream-coat ...

The book will be reviewed in a future issue of the Bulletin.