

EDITORIAL

This issue includes an article by Peter Lynch in which he makes a strong case for applying the name *O'Brien's Equation* to a classical equation in vector analysis which is of central importance in meteorology and which appears to lack a name, to date. A rather long article by Shannon Guerrero has interesting insights and suggestions about secondary mathematics education in Ireland. Bernd Kreussler's report on the IMO is encouraging.

We have agreed a new reciprocity agreement with the Moscow Mathematical Society, and this includes the exchange of our Bulletin for their periodical *Uspekhi Matematicheskii Nauk* (the Russian version, not the AMS translation). Please send expressions of interest in housing the exchange copies to me at the address below. The IMS Committee will then decide on the allocation.

John Miller was in contact last year, urging some action to record and preserve historical information about the IMS. There have been a few developments:

Richard Timoney of TCD and Michael Mackey of UCD have completed the task of assembling and scanning all issues of the IMS Newsletter and Bulletin, back to the very beginning, and these are now available online at <http://www.maths.tcd.ie/pub/ims/bulletin/>. Michael, the incoming President, has also compiled a list of the former Presidents and other officers. This is almost complete, and is currently at <http://banach.ucd.ie/~mackey/ims/imsofficers.html>. Members who can supply the missing data are asked to contact him.

Readers will be interested in a recent article on the history of Linear Algebra research in Ireland by Tom Laffey in IMAGE 52 (the Bulletin of the International Linear Algebra Society). See <http://www.ilasic.org/IMAGE/IMAGES/image52.pdf>. This was drawn to our attention by Niall Madden of NUI Galway.

Just before Christmas Colm Mulcahy of Spelman College launched an effort to document Irish research mathematicians. His website <http://www.cardcolm.org/AIMM.html> has a table that is intended to provide some basic data about people from Ireland or who worked or studied here and who made mathematics. The stated goal is: "To develop and maintain a dynamic and comprehensive Archive of Irish

Mathematics and Mathematicians, at the third level. We also wish to track the influence and contribution of Irish mathematicians to the profession worldwide via their progeny in the discipline, as measured by the supervision of doctoral theses, and, on another webpage, the publication of books.” Already there are over 600 entries. Readers are urged to check the entries about people of whom they they might have knowledge, and to send word to Colm about corrections and additions.

The San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment, which has now been endorsed by the Society (as well as by many individual members) may be viewed at <http://am.ascb.org/dora/>.

In Ireland, the madness continues. We are informed that the administrative powers-that-be in one of our leading universities have adopted a definition of “research active staff” which will classify as “research inactive” a professor who does nothing but teach, discover new results and publish them in peer-reviewed journals. The recent visit of J-P Bourguignon, President of the European Research Council, and his trenchant public lecture at the Royal Irish Academy may have given some of those who hold the purse-strings for publicly-funded research cause to doubt the wisdom of their policies. Apart from urging support for basic research, it was also helpful that he stated bluntly that citation-metrics are quite useless in the evaluation of mathematical work.

The next main scientific meeting of the Society will take place in UCC, and will form a part of the Boole Centenary celebrations there.

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