

EDITORIAL

Patrick D. Barry, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at University College Cork, has had significant influence on the development of Mathematics in Ireland. He did brilliant research work on complex analysis. In his autobiography, Walter Hayman wrote that Barry was “the only student I ever had who came to me with a PhD problem already prepared. It was on the minimum modulus of small integral and subharmonic functions, a subject on which Barry became the world expert.” Barry was Hayman’s second research student, and succeeded the first, Paddy Kennedy, in the chair at UCC. Thereafter he led the Department effectively for many years, as well as contributing in a major way to the university administration. Possessed of deep learning, and a strong sense of duty, he took seriously the responsibility of university mathematicians to monitor and assist with developments in the schools’ programme. He was particularly concerned about changes to the geometry syllabus that took place in the nineteen-sixties. These changes were seriously misguided. The whole sorry story is almost unbelievable, and is documented in the 2007 Maynooth PhD thesis of Susan McDonald. Barry was tireless and relentless over a long period in his efforts to correct the problem. Of his writings about school geometry, the most significant is his book *Geometry with Trigonometry*. This text was eventually adopted by the NCCA as the bedrock underlying the geometry programme in the Project Maths syllabus. It was a fully rigorous text on Euclidean geometry, going substantially beyond the schools’ programme, and suitable for study by university undergraduates. It has been out of print, and members will be glad to know that a second edition appeared last year, with extra material (ISBN: 978-0-12-805066-8). We hope to publish a review in the near future.

In the meantime, this dean of Irish mathematicians continues to flourish, and a digital copy of a draft of Barry’s second book, *Generalization of Geometry*, has been uploaded under his name on a UCC website. The link is <http://euclid.ucc.ie/pbarry/SGiG2.pdf>. Barry writes that it is a ‘second book’ on geometry. He writes: “Down the centuries many adults have studied as a hobby further material on the geometry they learned at school, and derived great

pleasure from this. With the decline in study of geometry over the last fifty years, this pool is probably greatly reduced but I have a strong hope that persons of this type will notice this book and be encouraged to study it. A major objective of the approach is to motivate in the familiar context of Euclidean geometry basic concepts of projective geometry.” The book has almost 500 pages, and is a treasure-trove.

The 2017 Annual Scientific Meeting will be held at Sligo Institute of Technology, and the 2018 meeting will be held at UCD.

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>

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.

AOF. DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS, MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY, CO. KILDARE

E-mail address: ims.bulletin@gmail.com

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