

EDITORIAL

Last year we revived the *News* item in the Bulletin, and invited the Irish Universities to report news to the end of November. Reports were received from just two institutions, and this year was no better. So we have decided to abandon this item. Information submitted may be incorporated here, as appropriate.

There seems to be a problem with the Bulletin item that lists the new PhD theses completed in the various Irish universities. Some administrator took the view that this listing violates the EU General Data Protection Regulation. My view is that doctoral theses are among the most quintessentially-public objects known to man, as public and as open to criticism as the bus timetable. Be that as it may, we have rather few responses to the call for data. We continue the item for now, but will drop it if the present level of responses continues.

The reorganisation of the IT sector into Technological Universities is in progress. In Dublin, TUD was formed incorporating Blanchardstown IT, DIT and IT Tallaght. From January 2021, in Munster, MTU will unite CIT and IT Tralee. In prospect is a merger of IT Sligo, GMIT and Letterkenny IT to form another TU, and a similar merger of WIT and Carlow IT.

The 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting (aka the “September Meeting”) will be hosted by UCC and MTU on 2–3 September 2021, with one day of activities at UCC and the second on the Cork campus of MTU. The 2020 meeting was deferred due to COVID, and took place on 12–14 January 2021, hosted by DCU. We’ve taken advantage of a production delay to squeeze in the report in this Winter 2020 Bulletin. I have to apologise for my lapse of attention that resulted in misreporting of the sequence number of these meetings for some years. I failed to check that the number was incremented each year, and an inspection reveals that we have had two each of the 28th meeting, the 27th meeting, and the 26th meetings! Thus we shall never have a 30th, a 31st, or a 32nd meeting. I am grateful to Brien Nolan for correcting this error. One can but hope that the news will not result in rioting members demanding back their missing meetings, in the spirit of the rioters of 1750, when Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar.

JP McCarthy of CIT (now MTU) reports: “Our esteemed colleague and friend Hannah Lordan retired from the Department of Mathematics after over 40 years of service to the institute. Hannah has been a stalwart of Cork IT and her experience, dedication, honesty, kindness and personality will be greatly missed by both staff and students of the institute.”

This issue includes two letters received. These are from JP McCarthy, about an interesting initiative at his Department, and from our outgoing President, Pauline Mellon, about the gender gap.

Two of the four 2020 conferences supported by the society were postponed due to the epidemic. We include reports from those two and reports from three 2019 conferences that came to hand too late for the last Winter issue. We remind organisers and other contributors that the normal deadline for submissions is 15 December for the Winter issue and 15 May for the Summer issue.

Natalia Kopteva, reporting on the Numerical Method Workshop hosted by UL remarks: “This workshop was the 17th in a sequence of annual workshops, but the 1st to be held online instead of physically. Its success opened our eyes to the possibility of organising

talks by speakers located in any part of the globe. Thus, in collaboration with other Irish researchers, we have now created the (virtual) **Irish Numerical Analysis Forum**¹ which will include fortnightly seminars in all areas of numerical analysis that are aligned with the interests of the Irish numerical analysis community. Its aim will be to solicit lectures from leading international numerical analysts who will discuss their research area in a style that is accessible to most numerical analysts (i.e., not just those who are already familiar with the subject of the lecture).” This is just one example of the way the COVID-19 epidemic has accelerated the use of the web for education and collaboration. Clearly, the whole academic community has undergone a phase change.

Despite the difficulties, the International Mathematical Olympiad for 2020 was held in late September. The next IMO is scheduled for 14-24 July 2021 in St. Petersburg.

As before, to facilitate members who might wish to print the whole issue, the website will carry a pdf file of the whole Bulletin, in addition to the usual pdf files of the individual articles. As a further convenience (which may suit some Departments and Libraries), for a limited time a printed and bound copy of this Bulletin may be ordered online on a print-on-demand basis at a minimal price².

Links for Postgraduate Study

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

DCU: <mailto://maths@dcu.ie>

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

IT Sligo: <mailto://creedon.leo@itsligo.ie>

IT Tralee:

<http://www.ittralee.ie/en/CareersOffice/StudentsandGraduates/PostgraduateStudy/>

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

MU: <mailto://mathsstatspg@mu.ie>

QUB:

http://web.am.qub.ac.uk/wp/msrc/msrc-home-page/postgrad_opportunities/postgrad_opportunities_2020_additional/

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>

The remaining schools with Ph.D. programmes in Mathematics are invited to send their preferred link to the editor.

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¹<https://staff.ul.ie/natalia/node/1210>

²Go to www.lulu.com and search for *Irish Mathematical Society Bulletin*.