

EDITORIAL

This issue is predominantly about mathematicians. We mark the recent loss of Paddy Barry and Brian Murdoch, two of the leaders of Irish academic life for a substantial part of the past century. In Barry's case, he was taken by COVID, which has also deprived the mathematical world of luminaries such as John Conway and Isadore Singer. We also include a short article about the career of John O'Sullivan, a little-known but influential member of our diaspora. I hope that fans of dissections will enjoy learning more about Henry Pergigal in Seán Stewart's account of that remarkable Victorian eccentric. This issue also includes a solution to a dissection problem from Bulletin 85. I would like to acknowledge the signal contribution of Ian Short, who has now edited the problem page for over a decade.

Discriminating persons will rejoice to learn that Tom Lehrer has put all his songs into the public domain. The lyrics of all his songs, including many that are not on the records, may be downloaded from TomLehrerSongs.com until the end of 2024.

I recommend the article by Michael Schmitz, *A plea for finite calculus*, in College Math J 52, no 2, March 2021, 94–105. It is entertaining, well-written, provocative, and balanced. He has thought deeply about the real problems with secondary maths education, and has read widely among the masters. His comments on the history of calculus and of instruction in calculus are sound and striking.

The 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society (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.

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.

Until now it has been editorial policy to limit rather severely the size of the files that make up the Bulletin articles, in order to avoid problems for readers having limited download speeds. We reviewed this policy recently, and realized that we have been somewhat behind the times. I am now adjusting our limits, and hope this does not cause difficulty. Readers are asked to let me know if they cannot download the material.

Note that the website serves up pdf files of the individual articles, as well as the pdf file of the whole Bulletin. I want to acknowledge the efficient and unfailing support of our website manager, Michael Mackey.

For a limited time, beginning as soon as possible after the online publication of this Bulletin, a printed and bound copy may be ordered online on a print-on-demand basis at a minimal price¹.

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>

¹Go to www.lulu.com and search for *Irish Mathematical Society Bulletin*.

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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