

# The Quaternion

The Newsletter of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics



Perelman, continued from Page 1

New Yorker, another former Fields Medal laureate, Shing-Tung Yau, attempted to “use” Perelman’s work to gain absolute power over mathematics in China (a country of a billion people!).

Is there a woman? Well...you read his personal.

Yet there may be a profound wisdom to his actions. A job in academia awards us the luxury of having a day or so per week that I like to call “A Thinking Day.” A day, completely void of anything mundane, spent in joy of thinking about anything that comes to mind. No guilt, no interruptions, just me and my thoughts. An intellectual Sabbath if you will. So ... maybe the “dude” is brave enough to give himself a “Thinking Life.” Have you ever thought of that? I have (on my Thinking Day, of course).

And then... maybe he is simply nuts!

## Transitions

Arun Mukherjea retired this summer. He received his Master's degree in Applied Mathematics from Calcutta University in India and his Ph.D. degree in Mathematics from Wayne State University in Detroit. After a brief stay at Eastern Michigan University as an Assistant Professor, he joined USF in 1969 as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics. He has been a Professor of Mathematics at USF since 1975. During his forty years of service, Professor Mukherjea has been one of our most productive research mathematicians – publishing dozens of books, monographs, and chapters, and scholarly research papers. His research interests include the study of probability measures on algebraic structures, weak convergence of their convolution products, and random walks induced by such measures; also, Markov chains, problems in multivariate analysis concerning identification of parameters in multivariate distributions, and random matrices and limit distributions of their products. We wish him well on his further adventures.

Meanwhile, Catherine Bèneveau, Brendan Nagle, and Dmitry Khavinson joined our faculty during the 2006-2007 academic year.

Catherine Bèneveau received her Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Albany in 1999. After a stint at the Center for Talented Youth at Johns Hopkins University, she went to Seton Hall, where she continued her work in complex function theory. Her current NSF grant supports the development of a multidisciplinary course in wavelets and their applications.

Dmitry “Dima” Khavinson came to us from the National Science Foundation, where he was the

Program Director in Analysis, and before that Distinguished Professor of Mathematics at the University of Arkansas. He received an M.S. from Moscow State Pedagogical Institute (Moscow, USSR) in 1978, then, after immigrating to the United States, earned his Ph.D. from Brown University in 1983. He has worked in a broad range of areas of analysis, from approximation theory to potential theory to differential equations to real analysis to ... all appearing in two books and over seventy papers. He has also mentored student theses from high school student projects to doctoral dissertations.

Brendan Nagle received his PhD from Emory University in 1999. The intervening years were spent as a postdoctoral fellow at Georgia Institute of Technology, and Assistant Professor at the University of Nevada, Reno. He continues his work in various areas of graph theory, especially hypergraph and extremal theory.

## Faculty News

Natasha Jonoska was awarded DNA Scientist of the Year Award during the Thirteenth International Meeting on DNA Computing this year. This award, also called the Tulip Award because the trophy is a crystal tulip, is given in recognition of long-term contributions to molecular computing. Tulips have been awarded annually since 2000, and are awarded at the annual DNA Computing conference.

Dima Khavinson's work in gravitational microlensing got him an invitation to be a plenary speaker at New Trends in Complex and Harmonic Analysis in Bergen, Norway, in May.

Wen-Xiu Ma served as President of the Chinese-American Association of Tampa Bay and co-edited a special issue on Topics on Integrable Systems in the Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics

Manoug Manougian was invited to the Oxford Round Table to present a paper on reclaiming trust in government; the conference itself was on the waning of trust in government.

Jogi Ratti and Marcus McWaters have published a new text, College Algebra, with “a strong emphasis on both concept development and real-life applications.” Published by Pearson/Addison-Wesley, it is designed to help students “find mathematics useful and interesting.”

Vilmos Totik has co-authored a book Problems and Theorems in Set Theory, with Peter Komjáth of Eotvas University in Budapest, Hungary.

Yuncheng You will be visiting Shanghai University in China as a Ziqiang Distinguished Visiting Professor this fall.

parentheses): Kheira Ameer (Masahiko Saito),  
Gokarna R. Aryal (Chris P. Tsokos), Lon[(2r4cCG TJ 0.000

Ten students were awarded doctorates between June  
2006 and June 2007 (the dissertation director is in

