



Newsletter 20

Edited by Sara Munday (University of Bremen, Germany)
and Elena Resmerita (University of Klagenfurt, Austria)

2012/1

Introduction

The current issue is dedicated to the 6th European Congress of Mathematics, Kraków, July 2-7, 2012, the main meeting organized by the European Mathematical Society (EMS) quadrennially. For this reason, the issue highlights EWM activities within ECM 2012 Krakow and contains interviews with scientists that are connected to this event in various ways. The first interview is with Irena Lasiecka, a mathematician of Polish origin, the second with Beryl Nelson, who works for Google in Kraków, while the third and last is with Marta Sanz-Sole, the EMS president. Also in this issue, we initiate the section "Situation of women in Mathematics/STEM per country" which this time is focused on Poland.

EWM 2012 in Krakow

The 6th European Congress of Mathematics, 6ECM, will be held in Krakow, 2-7 July 2012 (<http://www.6ecm.pl>). Together with the Women in Mathematics Committee (<http://www.euro-math-soc.eu/comm-women.html>), EWM is organising both a short satellite meeting on the day immediately before the Congress and a panel discussion during the Congress itself. EWM is also helping to increase the participation of young women from eastern European countries in 6ECM by advertising and supporting financially the EMS's grant scheme (<http://www.6ecm.pl/en/registration-fee/grants-and-financial-suport>): this should provide for living expenses of around 20-30 eligible participants. Google has made a generous donation of 5000 Euro towards this and in addition is funding a reception on Sunday July 1st. Moreover, the Compositio Foundation helped with 3000 Euro. Additional funding is coming from the research grants of lecturers and panellists, and some money left from the ICWM activities in Hyderabad.

The activities

a) Satellite meeting: Joint EMS/EWM Survey Lectures

<http://www.6ecm.pl/en/satellites-exhibitions/list-of-the-satellite-meetings/joint-emsewm-survey-lectures>

The meeting will take place in Auditorium Maximum on Sunday July 1st 2012 from 12 H 30 to 18 H 30. The speakers were chosen in collaboration with the EWM/EMS Scientific Committee of Women Mathematicians

<http://womenandmath.wordpress.com/emsewm-scientific-committee/>

about which you can read more in the following article in this newsletter. They are:

1. Frederique Oggier, Singapore, <http://www1.spms.ntu.edu.sg/~frederique/>
Construction of Secure Algebraic Lattice Codes
2. Barbara Opozda, Krakow, <http://www.im.uj.edu.pl/institut/pracownik?id=238>
Affine differential geometry
3. Sheila Sandon, Nantes, <http://www.math.sciences.univ-nantes.fr/membres/sheila-sandon>
Rigidity phenomena in Contact Topology
4. Evelina Viada, University of Basel and University of Gottingen, <http://www.math.ethz.ch/~viada/>
On the zeros of polynomials
5. Katrin Wendland, Freiburg, http://home.mathematik.uni-freiburg.de/mathphys/mitarbeiter/wendland/index_en.html
A geometric approach to topological field theory

The organizing committee is:

Bodil Branner (DTU, Lyngby, Copenhagen); Krystyna Jaworska, Secretary of the Polish Mathematical Society and member of the 6 ECM Executive Organizing Committee (Institute of Mathematics and Cryptology, Military University of Technology, Warsaw); and the EWM convenor Marie-Francoise Roy (IRMAR, Universitde Rennes 1, France); with assistance from Rosa Donat, Anna Grybos, Camilla Hollanti, Lisbeth Fajstrup, Sylvie Paycha, Dusanka Perisic and Alina Vdovina.

b) Panel discussion: Redressing the gender imbalance in mathematics: strategies and outcomes

This will be held on Tuesday afternoon, July 3rd (c.a.16:45 18:45).

Five panellists who have been involved in a wide spectrum of initiatives to encourage and support participation of women in science, especially mathematics, will give brief presentations of the projects in which they have been involved and address the outcomes. The topic will then be open to general discussion.

The event will be open to all participants in the Congress, thus we expect a wide range of mathematicians with a very broad range of disciplines and experience. We hope that sharing some of the very wide variety of different initiatives will be a constructive step to disseminating ideas and sharing best practice.

The panel will be chaired by Caroline Series (University of Warwick, UK), Chair of the EMS Committee on Women in Mathematics. The panellists are:

1. Dr Penelope Bidgood, Kingston University, UK, Chair, Committee on Women in Statistics
<http://isi-web.org/news/2011-dec-cws-news>

Topic: Women in Statistics

2. Professor Kari Hag NTNU, Trondheim, Norway

<http://www.math.ntnu.no/>

Topic: Scandanavian initiatives for Women Mathematicians

3. Professor Marja Makarow, University of Helsinki.

<http://www.genderinscience.org>

Topic: Does a research career in mathematics attract women?

4. Dr Christie Marr, Deputy Director, The Isaac Newton Institute, Cambridge, UK

<http://www.newton.ac.uk/>

Topic: The Newton Institute Gender Balance Initiative

5. Professor Marie-Francoise Roy, Université Rennes 1, France, Convenor of EWM

<http://perso.univ-rennes1.fr/marie-francoise.roy/>

Topic: Women in Mathemcs in France and Germany in the last 25 years

The organizing committee consists of Caroline Series together with two other members of the EMS WiM Committee: Bodil Branner (DTU, Lyngby, Copenhagen) and Elena Fernandez (Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya, Spain).

To register to these events, please go to

<http://people.math.aau.dk/~fajstrup/EWM/>

EWM and EMS Joint Women in Maths Scientific Committee

<http://womenandmath.wordpress.com/emsewm-scientific-committee/>

In 2008, following a suggestion of Sylvie Paycha, the European Maths Society and EWM jointly set up a Scientific Committee of twelve distinguished women mathematicians whose main role is to advise on speakers for events organised by EWM, such as the last general EWM meeting in Barcelona. The committee has been invaluable both in taking pressure off the local organisers and in helping raise the profile and mathematical level of EWM meetings.

After four years, in consultation with the EMS president Marta Sanz-Sole, the EWM convenor Marie-Françoise Roy, and the chair of the EMS Women in Maths committee Caroline Series, the committee has renewed its membership, which consists of:

Viviane Baladi (ENS, Paris, France), <http://www.dma.ens.fr/%7Ebaladi/>

Eva Bayer-Fluckiger (Lausanne, Switzerland), <http://alg-geo.epfl.ch/%7Ebayer/>
 Christine Bessenrodt (Hannover, Germany), <http://www-ifm.math.uni-hannover.de/%7Ebessen/>
 Alessandra Celletti (Rome, Italy), <http://www.mat.uniroma2.it/celletti/>
 Cornelia Drutu (Oxford, UK), <http://people.maths.ox.ac.uk/drutu/>
 Isabelle Gallagher (Paris, France), chair, <http://www.math.jussieu.fr/%7Egallagher/index.html>
 Sara van de Geer (Zürich, Switzerland), <http://stat.ethz.ch/people/geer>
 Antonella Grassi (U Penn, USA), <http://www.math.upenn.edu/%7Egrassi/>
 Ursula Hamenstaedt (Bonn, Germany), <http://www.math.uni-bonn.de/people/ursula/>
 Dusa McDuff (Stony Brook, USA), <http://www.scottlan.edu/lriddle/women/mcduff.htm>
 Ragni Piene (Oslo, Norway), <http://www.mn.uio.no/math/english/people/aca/ragnip/index.html>
 Ulrike Tillmann (Oxford, UK), <http://www.ma.hw.ac.uk/%7Eendg/fom/tillmann.html>

We would like to thank the four outgoing members - Christine Bernardi, Vera Sos, Nina Uraltseva and Michele Vergne - for their service.

Marie-Françoise Roy and Caroline Series

INTERVIEW: Irena Lasiiecka, University of Virginia

Irena Lasiiecka obtained her M.S. and PhD in Applied Mathematics from the University of Warsaw, Poland, in 1972 and 1975, respectively. Her research interests include Nonlinear PDEs, Optimization and Control Theory, Dynamical Systems and Numerical Analysis. She is the author of several books and review papers, and over 300 original research articles. Her first academic appointment was as an assistant professor at the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. From 1977, Prof Lasiiecka has been affiliated with universities in the USA:

The University of California at Los Angeles, the University of Florida

in Gainesville and finally the University of Virginia, where she has been a professor since 1987. Her current position there is Commonwealth Professor of Mathematics, a post she has held since 2011. In addition, Prof Lasiiecka has held a number of visiting positions during her career, both in the USA and in Europe. She has supervised about 20 PhD students and 10 postdoctoral fellows. She has been a (chief-)editor of various mathematical and engineering journals, as well as leader of several third-party research projects. Prof Lasiiecka has been given several awards for her research work,



most recently the SIAM 2011 W.T. Idalia Prize for contribution to Differential Equations and Control Theory.

EWM: In your opinion, which are your most important academic achievements, in particular in terms of mathematics?

IL: It is difficult to respond to this question without entering the mathematical details. I can only say that every time when you discover something new you feel great. Achievements of my PhD students are very important to me. These make me even happier.

EWM: Your academic activity is very rich. Could you briefly describe your

typical working day? How about your free time, how do you like to spend it?

IL: Typical working day is pretty standard. Going to the office, preparing for classes, lecturing, talking to students, discussing their progress etc. In addition: my own research, editorial work, committees work etc. Day is simply too short. I travel a lot professionally, so a concept of "vacation" has a different meaning for me. Changing a routine, visiting different places and meeting new friends are all both relaxing and

rewarding. In a real free time I like reading, listening to music, watching movies, going to the gym and meeting with my friends and family.

EWM: What advice would you offer a woman mathematician at the beginning of her career (e.g., postdoc) in order for her to become a respected scientist in her field? What should be her focus?

IL: First of all, try to balance professional career with a personal life. Not an easy task. At various stages of life different things matter

more. Priorities and focus may change. One may say that focusing on a career before having a family is a safer way to go. But it all depends. There are situations when a reverse order may be more desirable. These are very individual choices. It is important that we enjoy what we do. Then the rest will follow.

EWM: You have had a great deal of success obtaining grants for your research. Could you offer any

advice for beginning researchers on how best to approach the writing of grant proposals?

IL: It is important that we really like what we propose to work on. Enthusiasm is a key for writing good and convincing proposals. Of course, one must have a knowledge of the topic too- but this is obvious.

EWM: Why did you choose (if indeed it was an active choice) to

pursue your career in the USA instead of in Europe?

IL: This is hard to answer. To some extent this decision was not really planned. There is always a mix of personal and professional reasons. At some point I felt that scientific opportunities and "easiness" of living, from the logistic point of view, were much greater in the States.

INTERVIEW: Beryl Nelson, Google

Beryl Nelson gained her undergraduate degree in Math at MIT and went on to obtain an MS in Biology at the University of Utah with an NSF Graduate Fellowship. Still in Utah, she moved in 1981 to the Department of Computer Science as a programmer in the Symbolic Computation Laboratory. From there, she moved into a career in industry, first with the company Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) as a software engineer and manager, working primarily in computer languages. One notable early success at DEC was being deeply involved in the release of version 1 of Common Lisp, which was released the same month as Guy Steele's book, Common Lisp: The Language (to which she is also a contributor).

In 1995, Mrs Nelson moved to Tokyo, Japan, where, after a short career break to look after her young

children, she joined the company Epos as Chief Software Designer and Head of Software Department. There, her most important project was an automated integrated circuit tester. In 2004, the Nelson family moved to Hyderabad, India. Amongst the many and varied projects that she was part of in India, she is most proud of NuVia, an artificial intelligence project related to health care, at the company GHX. In 2009, Mrs Nelson began working for Google in Hyderabad, on the engineering productivity team. It is from there that she was offered her current position at Google Krakow, as an Engineering Manager for one of the teams in websearch.

In addition to her main work, Mrs Nelson has also become interested in the published research on the data on diversity within business and its practical applications.

EWM: Why has Google chosen to support the EWM?

BN: The main reason is to support an event addressed to the female community in science and technology, and to support and increase the participation of women in these types of events. For this reason, we are also taking part in the grant program, in order to increase the participation of young women of

eastern European countries at 6ECM. We also would like to introduce the Google Engineering offices in Poland and to raise awareness of the professional opportunities in Google for the female community.

EWM: How does a background in mathematics help with a career in a company like Google?



Photo taken by Jurij Smakov

She has designed and co-presented diversity sessions at Grace Hopper India and Grace Hopper US, at the ACM India conference 2011 and internally within Google.

She has three daughters: the twins are 17 and the older one is soon to be 22.

BN: Google does hire some mathematicians, and these people are particularly successful if they like to talk with other people and explore ways to get large impact by applying their knowledge to other Google problems. These are often, but not exclusively, in statistics, combinatorics, and operations research. More commonly, software engineers use mathematics in statistical estimations of large scale,

simulation and so on. It is most easy for mathematicians to be effective at Google if they can also write code for their ideas.

EWM: Does Google have any specific policies or programs in place to support women?

BN: Google has a deep and long-lasting commitment to building and maintaining a diverse organization. We believe that in addition to hiring the best talent, having diversity of perspectives, ideas, and cultures leads to the creation of better products and services. This is visible from the top down, from the founders all the way through the organization. Our Women@Google employee resource group is a global network with more than 30 active chapters throughout Asia, Europe and the Americas. Through this, we are able to create rich opportunities for women to connect across the organization, as well as to provide learning and development opportunities that meet the unique career needs of women. In addition, our SVP Alan Eustace helped to found and continues to support the Anita Borg Institute, which holds the annual Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing, and other initiatives. There are many examples, but one event in which I participated for International Women's Day this year can be seen here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0eF5O1pj7Y>

You can read more about diversity at Google here:

<http://www.google.com/diversity/>

EWM: How would you compare your professional experiences in Asia (India), Europe (Poland) and the USA?

BN: Each of those, plus my professional experiences in Japan and some schooling in Germany, has shaped the person I have become.

The work culture and lifestyle in each place is different, with varying strengths within each culture. I thought I was an open-minded person before moving to Asia in 1995. I now realize how wrong I was, and continue to learn by working side by side with people from other backgrounds. I believe that this sort of experience can make one more innovative. In terms of the strengths of each culture, there is probably not room within a short article, but to encapsulate a few: in Japan there is a very nice custom, both in raising children and in the workplace, of starting responsibilities gradually and increasing them over time. In schools the basic attitude is that anyone can learn, given the proper decomposition of a problem. This is really nice. I also learned a lot about consensus building. There are many meetings in Japanese society, as is well known, but generally, they confirm a decision already made. One talks with people individually beforehand, so there are no surprises in the larger group. This is a very useful technique, I have found. India is amazing because it has fast forwarded into use of new technologies in a very short time, so today's young work force is dealing with a completely different situation than their parents did. My husband is from India, and he tells of how each trip back surprised him -- the time he came back and all of a sudden, everyone had TVs, for example. I am most impressed by the drive to learn in young people. I have only been in Poland for a year, so I have much to learn, but I have felt really at home. There is a kind of courtesy to strangers, which is very nice, and attention to details, also very appealing. My colleagues are very committed and intelligent, with great skills.

EWM: As a successful career woman, how do you create a healthy work-life balance?

BN: Let me say first off that definitions of success and balance are highly personal, and many would question whether I have either. However, I would definitely call my life satisfying. In the case of balance, let me use an analogy from child nutrition. I read a study when my first child was young that is relevant. As it recall, it said that if you give children a lot of healthy options to eat, they don't choose a balanced diet for most meals, but over the course of a day, it is totally balanced. This ability to self-regulate is destroyed by insistence on eating at particular times, and by the introduction of sugar and salt. It is more appropriate in my own case to think of balance in the long term than the short term. That is, at different times, I have concentrated on different needs. I have worked full time, part time, at home; I have left work for several years and come back. I have alternately worked as an engineer and a manager, back and forth a few times. This is a very personal issue, but for me, in sum, I would say that developing these has been important:

- Deep self-knowledge, which helps you to prioritize.
- Skillset, which you continuously grow.
- Passion for your work and play.
- Supportive partners at home and work, and with complementary skillsets.
- Being able to create and make use of options, even if they are unconventional or risky.

Above all, you must keep yourself happy with your life and the options you have chosen. To that end, I feel that it is essential to have a really deep self-knowledge: of what is important to you, which helps you to set priorities; of what options you want to keep open; that helps inform your vision of what you want your life to be. I chose to quit working when we moved to Japan, in order to concentrate on helping

my children learn about the society we had moved into, and I learned a great deal myself. When I was asked to join a company again, I said only on the condition that I would come when the children were in school. This worked because I had a skill they really needed, so it is essential to continually build on your skills. It also worked because I loved the work, so I would be thinking about the problems when I got home, and just had to code up the solutions when I got to work. I prefer to work on high impact and challenging projects, on which I can learn. How you select a partner is very important. This will affect the kinds of risk you are able to take, and your support system at home in every way. I am sure I would not have thought about taking as many risks if my husband had not suggested and encouraged me on some of them, and that has been extremely valuable. Having him in an academic job and my work being in industry has also been very helpful. Your partners in the workplace are also extremely important: you want to work with intelligent and dedicated people who have complementary skills, so that you learn from each other, and whom you respect. Having financial options is also important. It turns out that renting makes us much more flexible; home

ownership makes moving more complicated. Living in less expensive countries (like India and Poland) has made it less important for both of us to be working at the same time, and that also gives us more freedom to try out risky work options.

A huge benefit of living in multiple countries is that our children have become world citizens: bilingual, multicultural, independent thinking people. They all learned to read in Japanese first, and English later, and know a bit of some other languages. The twins just turned 17 (they were 8 months old when we moved to Japan) and for their spring break went for 10 days to Japan, just the two of them, to see many friends. They loved it. This summer they plan a fair amount of travel, including a trip to India with their dad. The older daughter (she was 5 when we moved to Japan, soon to be 22 now) is a grad student getting an MS jointly from the U of Trento (Italy) and the U of Osnabrück (Germany); she is currently in Namibia for a second 2-month internship, studying dolphin behaviour for her thesis. She is applying for a PhD at least to universities in the Netherlands and Japan.

EWM: You have been very active concerning women in computing.

Do you think that your experiences there (in particular with being involved in the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing) could be helpful to the EWM? Do you think it worthwhile to build more bridges between STEM organisations for women with broadly similar aims?

BN: Yes, of course. I have been pleasantly surprised at the depth of research that has been done related to the benefits of diversity, as well as some of the challenges that face us in making diverse teams effective. I like to think of this more broadly than just as about women, but women in technology is certainly an example that I can relate to personally. I have been committed to increasing awareness of the research on unconscious bias, stereotype threat, and some of the steps that can be taken to reduce their effect, and I think this applies to any women in science/tech situation. There are differences in the kinds of career options open to mathematicians and computer scientists, of course, and the skill sets needed, so not all computing support activities will necessarily be relevant to mathematicians -- except for those who also want to increase their CS literacy.

INTERVIEW: Marta Sanz-Solé, EMS president

Marta Sanz-Solé is Professor at the Faculty of Mathematics, University of Barcelona, and the leader of the research group on stochastic analysis at this University. She has influential work in a variety of branches of stochastic analysis, including anticipating calculus, large deviations and especially the application of Malliavin calculus to stochastic partial differential equations. In 1998, she received the Narcis Monturiol Award of Scientific

and Technological Excellence, granted by the autonomous government of Catalonia, and in 2011 she was named Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.

She was elected Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics (1993-1996) and appointed Vice President of the Division of Sciences (2000-2003). Since January of 2012, she is the President of the European Mathematical Society.



EWM: What do you like about the academic career? How would you recommend an academic career to young women mathematicians?

MSS: I like its versatility, the possibility of focussing on different aspects of the profession of a mathematician: doing research, training young researchers, teaching, being a member of boards where important issues are discussed. Choosing a profession is a very difficult and personal decision. My position is not to recommend a choice, but rather to tell my experience. In particular, I explain what are in my opinion the positive and rewarding sides, but also the difficulties and stressful moments in the academic career.

EWM: What do you regard as the most important achievements of your career? Can you describe some of its milestones?

MSS: As a researcher, I am proud of some contributions to the field of stochastic partial differential equations. In particular on the characterization of the topological support of the solution of a SPDE (with V. Bally and A. Millet as co-authors), on applications of Malliavin Calculus (I have a book on it), and on the fine analysis of sample paths (with several co-authors, including R.C. Dalang). I also consider an important achievement having been elected President of the European Mathematical Society, for the confidence that colleagues in Europe have put on me.

EWM: You have obviously become very successful at scientific administration on a high level while carrying on with your research activities. How do you compare the two types of activities and the satisfaction each of them can offer? Do you have advice for younger women on finding the right career balance between the two?

MSS: The two activities are completely different. In research, you choose the problems you would like to investigate, your collaborators, your rhythm. In mathematics, research teams are usually small. Thus, interaction takes place within a rather reduced group. Moreover, carrying on research needs a lot of concentration, real progresses follow a careful plan. In academic and political scientific administration, including learned societies, interaction is done at a much larger scale, problems range in a great variety of classes, sometimes problems arise unexpectedly and many times reactions are needed quite promptly. As for the degree of satisfaction, for me it is more related to the value you attribute to a given achievement than to its type. What is more important, a wonderful mathematical result or a successful negotiation of funds? Your subjective answer would depend on your personal views on their influence, impact, etc., also on the acknowledgement you receive from others. Some people feel extremely happy and are successful running a one sided career. This depends very much on the personality. In my opinion, diversification is more enriching. However, scientific administration takes a lot of from your time and also requires some experience on the academic life. Hence, my advice would be not to be very much involved on this kind of tasks at a very early stage of the career, but to consider such a possibility once one has reached a stable position. Nevertheless, there are possibilities to contribute to collective projects that are not very demanding and that provide a very good training. Learned societies offer an excellent framework for this.

EWM: Can you specify the male-female ratio within the EMS members? Did you encounter any gender-related issues in

communication and decision-making at the EMS?

MSS: We are currently working on a EMS membership's statistics, but it is still at a preliminary stage. I am sorry, I cannot yet give an answer to your first question. I do not remember having encountered gender-related issues of the type you are mentioning.

EWM: Many European mathematicians are members of the American Mathematical Society (AMS). How does EMS advertise itself to European mathematicians?

MSS: The structure of the EMS is quite different from that of a national society as the AMS. Like national societies, we also have individual members. But our main influence and communication is done through the mathematical societies, research centers, institutes and departments from the very many countries in Europe. Hence, we really need their co-operation in making EMS known to European mathematicians. Letters from the President are regularly sent to the presidents and directors of these institutions in order to keep them informed about EMS projects and also on topics of interest for the community.

The EMS Newsletter, which can be freely downloaded at

<http://www.ems-ph.org/journals/journal.php?jrn=news>

is one of our main instruments to let European mathematicians know about the Society.

Recently, we have launched the EMS E-News,

http://www.euro-math-soc.eu/ems_enews.html

with headlines, news from members, committees, the EMS Publishing House. Everybody can subscribe, or just read it on the web. This is another instrument to make the Society more visible.

And finally, let me take the opportunity of mentioning the EMS website

<http://www.euro-math-soc.eu/index.html>

The very many entries with valuable information for every mathematician

is the best publicity for a Society which aims to be at the service of mathematicians and mathematics in Europe.

Situation of women in Mathematics/STEM by country

Starting with this issue, regional coordinators (EWM coordinators at national level) will discuss the situation of women in mathematics and other STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) subjects at various academic levels (undergraduate studies, graduate studies, associate and full professorship). The reports will contain whatever statistics are available as well as some more personal reflections.

Poland : Girls go science!

Poland is well known for very good mathematics: Cracow school (Lasota, Leja, Pelczar, Wazewski), Warsaw school (Borsuk, Kuratowski, Sierpinski) and, before the second World War, also the famous Lvov school (Banach, Kaczmarz, Mazur, Steinhaus, Schauder, Ulam). However, among these names there are very few women. Even today women professors are the minority among the mathematicians. Why?

Certainly, we should keep in mind that the professorship is the effect of the decisions made 20-30 years ago. Poland was then under communist regime rule, which was not friendly for the intellectuals. On the other hand, in the 1990s after the fall of communism, most people chose a quick business career rather than absorbing science. This resulted in the so-called "generation gap" in the Polish universities. But still, a female minority in Math is a strange situation in the country where the women have always kept a strong social position. The history full of wars and resurrections taught us to be independent and resourceful without men. Most of the women work, a classical "housewife" is a rarity in Poland. For the universal dilemma "Family or Work?" the Polish women have one answer: "Family and Work!". Also, higher education is very popular. Women are the majority (58.8%) of all students in the country. Economics, Medicine, Theology(!), Art, Pedagogy, Agriculture and Philology are all taken over by women. In this light, only 30.8% (in 2006) of women in polytechnics and science might be a cause for worry. That is why the Conference of Rectors of Polish Technical Universities (KRPUT) and Perspektywy Educational Foundation initiated a campaign "Girls As Engineers!" and "Girls to science!" with the aim to encourage girls to technical, engineering as well as science studies and to promote this educational path as interesting, attractive and very beneficial in the long run. Since 2007 the campaign has been successful; the group of female students has now risen to 35.5% of all students in polytechnics and science.

Will those smart girls grow to the new professors in mathematics? Very probably. We will see it in the next 20-30 years!

Anna Grybos

Jagiellonian University, Krakow

UPCOMING EVENT

Second Announcement : conference "Young Women in PDEs"

Date: Thursday, May 10, 2012 -- Saturday, May 12, 2012

Place: Department of Applied Mathematics, University of Bonn (Germany)

This workshop is addressed to young female researchers in PDEs, the Calculus of Variations, and their applications. The aim of the conference is to provide a platform for scientific discussion and exchange of ideas, and to promote equal opportunity of women in the mathematical sciences.

Senior speakers:

- A. Garroni, University of Rome "La Sapienza", Italy
- N. Uraltseva, St. Petersburg State University, Russia
- M. Westdickenberg, RWTH Aachen, Germany

For further information please visit:

<http://www.iam.uni-bonn.de/ywipde/>

Organizing Committee: L. Beck, C. Geldhauser, C. Zeppieri

UPCOMING EVENT

Two Mathematics conferences in Turkey

The first one will be held in Istanbul, between 20-24 June 2012. The deadline for applications is the 8th of May. The main theme of the conference is Applied Analysis and Algebra. You can find more information on the following web page:

<http://www.ica12.yildiz.edu.tr/Default.aspx?Header=News>

The second conference will be held in Ankara, between October 3-6, 2012. The deadline for sending abstracts was the 30th of April. The conference's main theme is Applied and Computational Mathematics. You can find more information at:

<http://icacm.iam.metu.edu.tr/>

UPCOMING EVENT

The XIII international conference on mathematics and its applications

1-3 November, 2012 , Timisoara, ROMANIA

organized by

The department of Mathematics, University "Politehnica" of Timisoara

together with

Romanian Academy - Branch Timisoara

The conference is devoted to all fields of theoretical and applied mathematics such as:

- Mathematical Analysis and Applications
- Algebra and Geometry, Computer Algebra Systems in Research
- Applied Mathematics in Engineering and Economics
- Probability and Statistics, Applications in Health and Clinical Research

More information can be found at

<http://www.mat.upt.ro/ICMA2012/index.htm>

UPCOMING EVENT

Forum of young mathematicians

Since 2010, the forum of young mathematicians organized by the French association 'Femmes et Mathématiques' has evolved into a 4 year program in association with the CNRS (National Center of Scientific Research) and its 'Mission pour la place des femmes' (Mission for women's integration), in order to increase its impact. As a result, four forums have been scheduled. The 2011 Forum was held from November 21st to 23rd, 2011, at the Institut de Mathématiques de Toulouse, Université Paul Sabatier. The theme chosen for this 2011 session was Probability and Statistics. The organization committee was chaired by Laure Coutin and the scientific one by Sylvie Méléard. There were 17 selected contributions from young researchers and 54 participants. There were also three round tables: 'Mathematical jobs in Industry', 'Gender and resistances of women and men to changes', and 'Openings in academic world, higher education and scientific research'. Two mentoring workshops were also offered to the participants. This 2011 forum was a success, it was conducted in a stimulating atmosphere, with a high quality of lectures given by confirmed researchers as well as young researchers.

Scientific presentations of the 2011 Forum as well as documents and pictures are available at the following web address http://www.math.univ-toulouse.fr/jeunes_mathematiciennes/

Note that the next forum of young mathematicians will be held at IHP (Institut Henri Poincaré) in 2012, November 12th to 14th. Its theme will be 'Algebra and geometry'. We would like to give to this next forum a European flavour by welcoming participants from all Europe.

More information can be found at <http://www.femmes-et-maths.fr/?p=698>

MISCELLANEOUS

The following link is to an interesting article in the American Scientist magazine, which considers the impact of motherhood on the careers of women scientists, particularly in math-intensive fields:

<http://www.americanscientist.org/issues/feature/2012/2/when-scientists-choose-motherhood>

On a related note, new studies presented as part of the Population Association of America's annual meeting 2012 suggest that parents today are happier than non-parents. An article on this topic can be read at

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/wellness/story/2012-05-03/parents-happiness-population-survey/54767508/1>

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACTS

EWM website: <http://www.europeanwomeninmaths.org/>

EWM convenor: Marie-Françoise Roy marie-francoise.roy(at)univ-rennes1.fr

EWM deputy convenor: Lisbeth Fajstrup fajstrup(at)math.aau.dk

EWM email list: Olga Lukina ol16(at)le.ac.uk

Other organisations with similar aims to the EWM:

The European Mathematical Society (EMS): <http://www.euro-math-soc.eu/>

EMS Women in Mathematics Committee: <http://www.euro-math-soc.eu/comm-women.html>

France: Femmes et mathématiques: <http://www.femmes-et-maths.fr/>

UK: LMS Women in Mathematics Committee: http://www.lms.ac.uk/activities/women_maths_com/

Job announcements:

<http://www.math-jobs.com>

<http://www.jobs.ac.uk/>

<http://www.euro-math-soc.eu/jobs.html>

Membership renewal: Direct transfer of the membership fee can be made to the EWM bank account. For details, please contact Camilla Hollanti at cajoho(at)utu.fi