
A f t e r m a t h

Congratulations Ken!

by Mladen Bestvina



Ken Bromberg has received an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship. This year, there were 117 recipients in the fields of physics, chemistry, molecular biology, economics, computer science, neuroscience and mathematics. Ken was one of 20 mathematicians who received the award. Congratulations Ken!

Ken's research is in the area of 3-dimensional geometry and topology, particularly hyperbolic 3-manifolds. In his free time he likes to go back-country skiing and rock climbing. He also enjoys being a new homeowner. Check out his web page for a proof!

Distinguished Professor



Jim Keener was flabbergasted when he received a phone call informing him that he had been appointed as Distinguished Professor of Mathematics. At present, there are only 37 active and 7 Emeritus Distinguished Professors in the entire University. Our own department first received that honor in 1996 when Janos Kollar was appointed Distinguished Professor. Paul Fife followed in 1997, Graeme Milton in 1999, and Herb Clemens in 2001. Jim now joins that august list.

A Distinguished Professor is nominated by his or her colleagues and then elected by the Distinguished Professors of the University. The appointment needs to be confirmed by the Academic Vice President, the Faculty Senate, and the Board of Trustees. Jim's promotion is a well deserved recognition of his outstanding scholarship and his many great contributions to the cause of mathematics and our department. Congratulations, Jim, we are proud of you!

Personality!

Liz Doman grew up in Salt Lake City and attended Skyline High School, where Marilyn Keir was her math teacher...her first positive mathematical influence! She then attended Westminster College, where she met Bob Palais, her second positive mathematical influence. Liz is now a third year graduate student studying math physiology here at the U of U. She is interested in modeling the stochastic and deterministic elements involved in the initial mutations and division of cancer cells. Liz says, "It's nice that I now get to work with both Marilyn and Bob, my greatest influences."

Liz's family still resides in Salt Lake, so she gets to see them all the time. She has a little brother (23 years old), Dave, who studies art at the U of U, and a little sister (20 years old), Kristen, who is her best friend. Her boyfriend, Tonino, works for a snowboard company, Nitro Snowboards.

Liz *loves* snowboarding (when she gets the chance). She is a coach at High Cascade Snowboard Camp, Mt. Hood, Oregon during the summer.

Liz wants everyone to know how much she has enjoyed her experience in the program so far. "The math biology group is so supportive and encouraging. I have learned so much through my course work, but learned even more during the various group meetings and journal clubs. I'm so grateful for the wonderful learning environment and tight-knit community that my professors and peers have created. I feel so lucky to work with such amazing people."



Liz and her little brother, Dave.

Dumke Loft Dedicated

If you have never seen our chairman in a suit then you missed your chance on February 23 at the dedication of the newly renovated attic space in LCB. Quite a large crowd was present, including the extended Dumke Family (who generously donated a total of \$125,000 to make this project a reality), a veritable Who's Who of the University of Utah, the architects who designed both the original LCB renovation and the attic renovation, representatives of the construction company, and numerous guests, faculty, students, and staff.

Some memorable things were said. Graeme Milton expressed his certainty that the attic will be a great place to explore the boundary and frontiers of mathematics. Dean Peter Stang stressed the critical importance of mathematics, without which we would not have gadgets like cell phones or computer aided tomography, before hesitatingly conceding that mathematics may not be a popular subject for many. Senior Vice President Dave Pershing talked about the history of LCB, and described a tour he took when the building was being renovated. Everybody was wearing hard hats, and the group climbed up some rickety, temporary stair cases. There were several places where one could fall into great depths. To this day he is uncertain whether our department was trying to impress him or to scare him into supporting the attic project. Our very own Liz Doman was introduced as a mathematics graduate student and expert snow boarder. She described herself as a friend of the Dumke Family, and after expressing her gratitude, announced to our visitors that all math graduate students spend more time in the department, including the new LCB facilities, "than anywhere else." (Of course, we knew this all along!)

LCB is one of the original buildings on campus. Construction commenced on May 13, 1900, and the building was dedicated in 1902. If you look closely, you can find notes on the rafters left behind by the original construction crew. Rumors of notes from the Lewis and Clark Expedition have so far proved groundless.

You should visit the attic if you have not already done so. The north half is a public meeting and discussion space, well equipped with chairs, soft chairs, tables, and white boards, and the south half has individual work spaces for REU students and first year graduate students. The

public area is a particularly great place for students to meet and study, on their own, in groups, or with their teachers. The Dumke Loft is an exquisite facility. We may need to develop rules and guidelines for its use in the future, but basically it is open to anybody for meeting and studying.

Calendar

Friday, April 16 – REU Application deadline.

Saturday, April 17 – Calculus Challenge (for undergrads), 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, LCB 219.

Thursday, April 22 – Awards Ceremony, 3:00, JWB 335.

Friday, May 7 – Graduation!

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www.math.utah.edu/newsletter

The Aftermath is edited by Peter Alfeld and Angie Gardiner. Please contact either one of us if you have an idea or article to submit.