Fields Medal awarded to Professor Caucher Birkar

We are delighted that Professor Caucher Birkar from the Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics (DPMMS) was awarded a Fields Medal at the 2018 International Congress of Mathematicians in Rio de Janeiro.

The Fields Medal, often described as the mathematical equivalent of the Nobel Prize, recognises Birkar's important contributions to algebraic geometry, particularly his proof of the boundedness of Fano varieties and contributions to the minimal model problem.

The news also made headlines for non-mathematical reasons, when just minutes after the award ceremony the medal itself was stolen. Birkar took the theft in his stride: "This has been widely covered in the media ... and now the number of people who know what a Fields Medal is is way more than it was last week," he joked as he received his replacement medal.

Discover more about the mathematics behind the medal in our feature article, including Birkar's inspirational journey from war-torn Kurdistan to becoming a world-leading mathematician.

Read more

Cambridge Perspectives: Professor Caucher Birkar, Fields Medallist

In this video interview, Professor Caucher Birkar explains more about algebraic geometry, and discusses the work that led to his Fields Medal.

Watch now

Reflections from DPMMS

Collective leadership: the secret to success

In October, Professor Gabriel Paternain stepped down after his five-year term as Head of DPMMS.

As he handed over the reins to Professor James Norris, we asked him about his experience of being Head of Department, his personal highlights of the period and what makes a great maths department.

Read more

Through the looking glass: symplectic geometry

Dr Ailsa Keating is a new Lecturer in DPMMS. Her field is symplectic geometry, which has rich connections to algebra, geometry, mechanics and even string theory, exploring ideas such as mirror symmetry and reflections in higher dimensions. We talked to her to discover more.

Read more

Cambridge at the International Congress of Mathematicians

Every four years thousands gather for the biggest event in the mathematical calendar, the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM).

In addition to Professor Caucher Birkar being awarded the Fields Medal, several Cambridge mathematicians were invited speakers, recognising the importance of their research in diverse fields.

Professors Jack Thorne, Clément Mouhot and Ivan Smith from DPMMS discuss what makes the ICM special, and tell us more about their recent work.

Read more

Cambridge success with the Philip Leverhulme Prizes

In the last academic year, the world-class work of Cambridge mathematicians was recognised through numerous prizes and awards. An outstanding three of the five winners of the Philip Leverhulme Prizes in mathematics and statistics were from the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics (DAMTP) and DPMMS.

Prize-winners Professor Carola-Bibiane Schönlieb, Dr Anders Hansen and Dr Oscar Randal-Williams explain more about their cutting-edge research, and how the freedom and collaboration opportunities at Cambridge have helped them to succeed.

Read more

STIMULUS – placing student volunteers in schools for 30 years

For three decades, the STIMULUS programme has created volunteer placements for Cambridge students in local schools to support mathematics, science and computing classes. STIMULUS now creates over 200 student placements a year.

As well as providing teachers with extra support, STIMULUS helps students develop vital life skills, allows pupils to get a glimpse of University life, and forges links between the University and the local community. By encouraging students to consider a career in teaching, STIMULUS also contributes to the future of science and maths education.

Read more

Your invitation to a special alumni event

Tour of GK Batchelor fluid dynamics laboratory

Friday 22 March, 6-8pm

Fluid dynamics in Cambridge has a historically strong profile. DAMTP is one of the few mathematics departments in the world that has an experimental laboratory, which when originally set up in 1964 was the first of its kind.

The present-day laboratory boasts 820 square metres of purpose-built space hidden beneath the Centre for Mathematical Sciences site. The GK Batchelor Laboratory is first and foremost a research facility but teaching, education and public engagement also play an important role.

We warmly invite alumni to join us for a special opportunity to experience first-hand the work of this unique facility.

[Find out more]

Our campaign for the University and Colleges of Cambridge is raising funds to attract the brightest minds, create the finest facilities and give the freedom to create more world-changing ideas. To do this, we need your help.

Dear World...
Yours, Cambridge

Faculty of Mathematics

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