EDITORIAL

The year 2026 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Irish Mathematical Society on 14th April 1976 in Trinity College Dublin. To mark the occasion, the Summer 2026 issue of this Bulletin will be a special one - see the email from Rachel Quinlan, President, to the membership dated 21st August last. Quoting from her email: 'Papers are invited on all topics relevant to the Irish mathematical landscape in the last 50 years and into the future, including (but not limited to)

- research articles
- survey articles with an Irish context
- history of mathematics in Ireland (and of the IMS)
- interviews and biographies
- mathematics education (including student experiences)
- mathematical outreach and community engagement
- recreational mathematics
- student events (e.g. mathematical olympiads).

Submissions intended for this special issue should mention "Summer 2026 special issue" in the subject line.' A deadline of 20th February 2026 is mentioned, though I can work around this within reason (with the cooperation of reviewers). The submission process can be found on the Bulletin webpage. Should you wish to discuss informally any ideas you may have for this special issue, feel free to email me at `ims.bulletin@gmail.com`.

This editor is always keen to receive articles 'written in an expository style and likely to be of interest to the members of the Society and the wider mathematical community'. It is natural to think of the Mathematical Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy (MPRIA) as a sister publication to this Bulletin: indeed, these two are the only regular mathematics journals published in Ireland. Publication in MPRIA has recently become more attractive. Over and above being listed on Scopus, all articles published in MPRIA during 2026 will be published open access (without author fees), regardless of author affiliation. This development is made possible by the RIA's participation in Project MUSE's Subscribe to Open (S2O) initiative. I would encourage members to consider if this Bulletin or MPRIA might be a suitable forum in which to publicise their work.

Finbarr Holland (UCC) informed me of the sad news that Jim Chadwick, a former UCC student from Tralee who would have been known to many of the more established readers of this Bulletin, passed away on 23rd November 2025. He was an outstanding student who wrote textbook-style answers to exam questions. He won the Travelling Studentship in 1968 and wrote his Ph.D. at the Australian National University under Ronald William Cross (according to the Mathematics Genealogy Project). He taught in UCC and TCD for brief periods before emigrating to South Africa where he headed a Computer Science Department in Grahamstown. Jim's regular visits home were a summer highlight for his many old friends: he was, by all accounts, a great conversationalist with a witty sense of humour and fun (rip.ie).

The variety of contributions to this issue is noteworthy. We have two particularly interesting reviews, one by Zhenwei Lyu of a book on AI by Susskind and one by Peter Lynch on a bird's eye view of mathematics by Thomas Waters. The latter author was born and grew up in Dublin, attended DCU where he earned his PhD under Brien Nolan and, inter alia, lectured at the University of Galway for three years. He has been a lecturer at the University of Portsmouth since 2010. Tony O'Farrell takes us through many diverse approaches to, and perspectives on, the Fundamental Theorem

of Algebra. In a similar vein, Argerami and Moslehian take us on a tour of the trace operator in a variety of contexts. Des MacHale, who is a loyal long-term supporter of both this Bulletin and MPRIA, is co-author on two articles: one with Joe Kingston on dissections of rectangles into squares and a second with Michael Kinyon on providing equational proofs of commutativity theorems in rings. Dospra describes an algorithm for finding small solutions of bivariate linear congruences while Abreu presents some new representations of Catalan's Constant $G = 1 - 1/3^2 + 1/5^2 - 1/7^2 + \ldots$. Every issue of the Bulletin closes with the Problem Page, ably curated by J.P. McCarthy, who is always on the lookout for interesting problems.

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