# Association for Symbolic Logic

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#### ASL NEWSLETTER

January 2012

• In Memoriam: Ernst Specker. Ernst Specker passed away unexpectedly on December 10, 2011, aged almost 92. He began his studies in the department of mathematics of ETH Zurich in 1940, and received his M.Sc. degree in 1945 and his Ph.D. (Dr. sc. math.) in 1948, with theses in topology supervised by Heinz Hopf. During this period Specker also studied logic with Paul Bernays. Among his other teachers were Michel Plancherel, Frederic Gonseth, and Beno Eckemann, who was only slightly older than he was. At the University of Zurich he took courses with Paul Finsler. During the years 1948-1950 he was at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. After his return to Switzerland he taught at the Universities of Geneva and Neuchatel and at ETH Zurich. In 1955 he was appointed professor for mathematics and logic at ETH Zurich, the position he held until his retirement in 1987, heading the Zurich Logic School founded by Paul Bernays. After his retirement he continued to chair the Logic Seminar until a few years ago, and he followed the latest developments in logic and algorithmics with unabated interest until his last days.

Although compared to the records of many researchers of today Specker's papers are few, each one is a landmark in its respective field. The *Selecta Ernst Specker*, published on the occasion of his 70th birthday bears witness to this. So did the international conferences held in honor of his 60th, 80th and 90th birthdays.

His work covered algebraic topology, set theory, models of arithmetics, recursion theory, the foundations of quantum mechanics, finite and infinite combinatorics, algorithmics, and complexity. Much of his most influential work has been on Quine's New Foundations, a set theory with a universal set, but he is most famous for the Kochen-Specker theorem in quantum mechanics, showing that certain types of hidden variable theories are impossible. With the recent emergence of quantum information theory this work again plays a central role in the debate around the foundations of quantum computations. Specker's paper on recursive analysis, published in 1949, pioneered research in this field, and his paper on recursive versions of Ramsey's Theorem anticipates the Paris-Harrington-Kirby Theorem. His paper on the application of logic to combinatorics was the first to introduce model theoretic methods into finite combinatorics. In 1970, together with Volker Strassen, he founded a seminar on logic and algorithmics, one of the first of its kind in Europe, and a whole generation of leading theoretical computer scientists was formed in these seminars.

Ernst Specker was a challenging personality, as a teacher to his students and to his colleagues, but foremost as a human being who always questioned conventions and accepted only what withstood his own critical judgment. An example of this can be found in the mediating role he played during the 1968 youth unrest, where he co-authored, together with the renowned sculptor Gottfried Honegger, the "Zurich Manifesto", warning the frightened citizens of overreaction and calling for a dialogue between the generations. Another example is his public—and later published—lectures on biblical themes in which he offered inspiring and unexpected new angles of interpretation of biblical texts.

Ernst Specker, in his gently teasing way, forced everyone entering his orbit to reconsider accepted opinions. His questioning mind will live on in the memory of his family, his friends and his many direct and indirect students.

• The 2011 ASL Election. The ASL membership has elected Martin Grohe (Humboldt University of Berlin) and Michael Rathjen (Leeds) to the Executive Committee, and Deirdre Haskell (McMaster) and Rosalie Iemhoff (Utrecht) to the Council. Their terms of office are for three years beginning January 1, 2012. The Nominating Committee consisted of Toshiyasu Arai, Michael Benedikt, Carlos DiPrisco, Mirna Džamonja, David Marker, Yiannis Moschovakis (Chair), and Richard Zach.

- Discounted Dues for New ASL Individual Members. The ASL now offers a 50% discount on dues for new individual members during each of the first two years of membership. For more information, visit http://www.aslonline.org/membership-individual.html.
- Book and Journal Discounts for ASL Members. Several publishers now offer discounts on books and journals to ASL members. For a detailed description of these discounts, visit http://www.aslonline.org/members-discounts.html on the ASL website, or write to the ASL Business Office.

#### ASL MEETINGS

• Student Travel Awards: The 2012 ASL European Summer Meeting and other ASL or ASL-Sponsored Meetings. The ASL will make available modest travel awards to graduate students in logic and (for the European Summer Meeting only) to recent Ph.D.'s so that they may attend the 2012 ASL European Summer Meeting in Manchester, England; see below for information about this meeting. Student members of the ASL also may apply for travel grants to other ASL or ASL-sponsored meetings. To be considered for a Travel Award, please (1) send a letter of application, and (2) ask your thesis supervisor to send a brief recommendation letter. The application letter should be brief (preferably one page) and should include: (1) your name; (2) your home institution; (3) your thesis supervisor's name; (4) a one-paragraph description of your studies and work in logic, and a paragraph indicating why it is important to attend the meeting; (5) your estimate of the travel expenses you will incur; (6) (for citizens or residents of the USA) citizenship or visa status; and (7) (voluntary) indication of your gender and minority status. Women and members of minority groups are strongly encouraged to apply. In addition to funds provided by the ASL, the program of travel grants is supported by a grant from the US National Science Foundation; NSF funds for meetings outside of North America may be awarded only to students at USA universities and to citizens and permanent residents of the USA. Air travel paid for using NSF funds must be on a US flag carrier. Application by email is encouraged; put "ASL travel application" in the subject line of your message.

For the 2012 ASL European Summer Meeting, applications and recommendations should be received before the deadline of March 23, 2012, by the Organizing Committee: LC2012, c/o Alex Wilkie, School of Mathematics, The Alan Turing Building, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, UK; email: lc2012@manchester.ac.uk.

For ASL student member travel grants to ASL or ASL-sponsored meetings (other than the 2012 European Summer Meeting), applications and recommendations should be received at least three months prior to the meeting at the ASL Business Office: ASL, Box 742, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York 12604, USA; Fax: 1-845-437-7830; email: asl@vassar.edu. Decisions will be communicated at least two months prior to the meeting.

- 2012 ASL North American Annual Meeting. March 31-April 3, 2012, Madison, Wisconsin. The twentythird annual Gödel Lecture will be delivered by J. Steel. The invited speakers are: A. Dow, I. Goldbring, W. Goldfarb, J. Miller, A. Montalban, T. Pitassi, G. Sargsyan, S. Starchenko, and M. Vardi. The following special sessions are planned (with organizers in parentheses): Computability (L. Bienvenu and J. Reimann), Model theory (M.C. Laskowski), Set theory (D. Raghaven and J. Steprans), Structural proof theory and computing (D. Miller), and the history of logic on the centenary of the birth of Jean van Heijenoort (T. Drucker). The members of the Program Committee are: J. Avigad, B. Hart (Chair) A. Miller, G. Nadathur, and J. Reimann. The Local Organizing Committee includes: U. Andrews, M. Cai, S. Lempp (Chair), A. Miller, and J. Miller. A complete program and registration form are enclosed in this Newsletter mailing. Electronic registration is available at http://www.aslonline.org/meeting\_registrationsecure.html. For further information, visit http://www. math.wisc.edu/~asl2012/.
- 2012 ASL European Summer Meeting (Logic Colloquium '12). July 12–18, 2012, Manchester, England. Tutorials (with topics in parentheses) will be offered by: I. Farah (set theory), A. Montalban (computability theory), and B. Zilber (model theory). The invited speakers include: J. Avigad, A. Blass, S. Buss, G. Jones, P. Komjath, L. Levin, G. Longo, M. Magidor, Z. Sela, V. Shavrukov, A. Shlapentokh, and M. Soskova. In

addition, H. Friedman will deliver the Goodstein Lecture and A. Macintyre will deliver the Turing Lecture, in celebration of the centenaries of the births of R.L. Goodstein and A.M. Turing. The following special sessions (with organizers in parentheses) also are planned: Computability, logical and physical (B. Cooper); Homotopy type theory (S. Awodey); Model theory (M. Tressl); Philosophy of mathematics and computer science (R. Turner); Proof theory (L. Beklemishev); and, Set theory (U. Abraham). The Program Committee members are: U. Abraham, L. Beklemishev, B. Cooper, P. D'Aquino (Chair), A. Dawar, G. Sundholm, M. Tressl, and F. Wolter. The Local Organizing Committee includes: S. Borovik, M. Kambites, J. Paris, M. Prest, H. Simmons, M. Tressl, A. Vencovska, A. Wilkie (Chair), and G. Wilmers. For further information, visit http://www.mims.manchester.ac.uk/events/workshops/LC2012/index.php.

Abstracts of contributed talks submitted by ASL members will be published in *The Bulletin of Symbolic Logic* if they satisfy the Rules for Abstracts (see below). Abstracts—hard copy or email—should be received before the deadline of March 30, 2012 at the official meeting address: LC2012, c/o Alex Wilkie, School of Mathematics, The Alan Turing Building, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, UK; email: lc2012@manchester.ac.uk.

- 2013 ASL North American Annual Meeting. May 8–May 11, 2013, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. The members of the Program Committee are: S. Awodey, I. Farah (Chair), A. Kanamori, R. Moosa, J. Reimann, and P. Scott. The Local Organizing Committee includes: S. Ben-David, B. Csima (Chair), D. DeVidi, R. Moosa, and R. Willard.
- Rules for Abstracts. The rules for abstracts of contributed talks at ASL meetings (including those submitted "by title") may be found at http://www.aslonline.org/rules\_abstracts.html. Please note that abstracts *must* follow the rules as set forth there; those which do not conform to the requirements will be returned immediately to the authors submitting them. Revised abstracts that follow the rules will be considered if they are received by the announced deadline.

#### ASL SPONSORED MEETINGS

- Seventh International Symposium on Foundations of Information and Knowledge Systems (FoIKS 2012). March 5–9, 2012, Kiel, Germany. The Co-chairs of the Program Committee are T. Lukasiewicz and A. Sali, and the Local Organization Chair is B. Thalheim. For more information, visit http://2012.foiks.org/.
- Young Set Theory Workshop 2012. April 30-May 4, 2012, Luminy, France. The aim of this conference, supported by the Centre International de Rencontres Mathématiques (CIRM, which is hosting the meeting) and the INFTY Program (funded by the European Science Foundation), is to bring together Ph.D. students and postdoctoral researchers in set theory to learn from leading researchers in the field, hear about the latest research, and discuss research issues in a co-operative environment. Tutorials given by senior researchers representing a branch of set theory will be offered by: I. Farah, A. Louveau, I. Neeman, and S. Todorcevic. Invited talks by young researchers will be given by: C. Brech, S. Cox, V. Fischer, D. Ikegami, C. Martinez-Ranero, D. Milovich, and F. Schlutzenberg. The members of the Scientific Committee are: D. Raghavan, A. Rinot, G. Sargsyan, P. Schlicht, A. Törnquist, and T. Tsankov (Chair). The Organizing Committee includes J. Melleray, L.N. Van The, and M. Viale. For more information, visit http://math.univ-lyon1.fr/~melleray/yst2012-home.html.
- Antalya Algebra Days XIV. May 16-20, 2012, Cesme, Turkey. This year the main topic of this conference series is model theory. There will be about twenty invited plenary talks, five hours of parallel session talks given by young researchers, and a poster session. The Program Committee includes: Z. Chatzidakis, P. Kowalski, M. Kuzucuoglu, A. Nesin, D. Pierce, A. Sinan Sertoz, S. Thomas, A. Topuzoglu, and S. Ünver. The Local Organizing Committee members are: A. Berkman, O. Beyarslan, P. Kowalski, and P. Ugurlu. For further information, visit http://www.aad.metu.edu.tr/.
- Fifteenth Latin American Symposium on Mathematical Logic (SLALM2012). June 4–8, 2012, Bogota, Colombia. Invited speakers include: J.M. Font, D. Haskell, D. Hirschfeldt, U. Kohlenbach, B. Löwe, A. Montalbán, J. Moore, D. Mundici, A. Onshuus, V. de Paiva, T. Scanlon, S. Thomas, and J. Väänänen. In addition to plenary talks, there will be special sessions on algebraic and non-classical logics, model theory, recursion

and computer science logic, and set theory. Four tutorial courses will take place during the week preceding the meeting. Contributed talks in all the areas of mathematical logic are invited; abstracts, including the session closest to their topic, must be submitted by March 4th, 2012, to slalm@uniandes.edu.co. The members of the Program Committee are: X. Caicedo (Chair), W. Carnielli, R. Cignoli, C. Di Prisco, R. Downey, A. Macintyre, M. Magidor, F. Miraglia, and C. Steinhorn. The Organizing Committee includes: A. Berenstein, X. Caicedo, L.J. Corredor, C. Di Prisco, R. de la Vega, J. Iovino, J. Goodrick, A. Onshuus, A. Villaveces, and F. Zalamea. Sponsors of SLALM2012, in addition to the ASL, include Universidad de los Andes, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, and Colciencias (the Administrative Department of Science, Technology and Innovation of Colombia). For further information please visit http://matematicas.uniandes.edu.co/eventos/SLALM2012/ or write to slalm@uniandes.edu.co.

- Model Theory in Wrocław 2012. June 16-19, 2012, Wrocław, Poland. The confirmed invited speakers include: I. Ben Yaacov, J.D. Caicedo, J. Dobrowolski, L. van den Dries, G. Jones, T. Kaiser, I. Kaplan, D. Macpherson, J. Maříkova L. Newelski, G. Onay, S. Randriambololona, P. Tanović, and K. Tent. The Organizing/Scientific Committee members are P. Kowalski and K. Krupinski. For further information, visit http://www.math.uni.wroc.pl/~pkowa/wroclaw12.html.
- North American Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information (NASSLLI 2012). June 18–22, 2012, Austin, Texas. This event, loosely modeled on the long-running ESSLLI series in Europe (see http://www.esslli2012.pl), will consist of courses and workshops with a focus on interdisciplinary work involving logic, linguistics, computer science, cognitive science, philosophy, and artificial intelligence. The Program Committee Co-chairs are C. Areces and V. de Paiva. The Steering Committee includes: D. Beaver, P. Kolaitis, L. Moss, V. de Paiva, S. Shieber, and M. Vardi. For more information, visit http://nasslli2012.com/.
- Turing Centenary Conference; Computability in Europe 2012 (CiE 2012)—How the World Computes. June 18–23 2012, Cambridge, England. The eighth in a series organized within the network "Computability in Europe" (CiE), CiE 2012 is one of a series of special events, running throughout the Alan Turing Year, celebrating Turing's unique impact on mathematics, computing, computer science, informatics, morphogenesis, philosophy and the wider scientific world. Its central theme is the computability-theoretic concerns underlying the broad spectrum of Turing's interests, and the contemporary research areas founded upon and animated by them. Invited speakers include: D. Aharonov, V. Becher, L. Blum, R. Downey, Y. Gurevich, J. Hartmanis, A. Hodges, R. Jozsa, S. Kauffman, J. Murray, S. Shieber, P. Smolensky, I. Stewart, and L. Valiant. Special sessions are planned on the following topics (with chairs in parentheses): computational models after Turing: the Church-Turing Thesis and beyond (M. Davis and W. Sieg); cryptography, complexity, and randomness (R. Downey and J. Lutz); morphogenesis/emergence as a computability theoretic phenomenon (P. Maini and P. Sloot); open problems in the philosophy of information (P. Adriaans and B. Löwe); the Universal Turing Machine and the history of the computer (J. Copeland and J. Tucker); and, the Turing Test and thinking machines (M. Bishop and R. Verbrugge). The Program Committee Co-Chairs are S.B. Cooper and A. Dawar, and the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee is A. Dawar. For more information, visit http://www.cie2012.eu.
- Twenty-seventh Annual IEEE Symposium on Logic in Computer Science (LICS 2012). June 25-28, 2012, Dubrovnik, Croatia. The LICS Symposium is an annual international forum on theoretical and practical topics in computer science that relate to logic in a broad sense. The Program Chair is N. Dershowitz, the General Chair is R. Alur, and the Conference Co-Chairs are V. Lipovac and A. Scedrov. For further information, visit http://www2.informatik.hu-berlin.de/lics/lics/lics12/.
- Seventh International Conference on Computability, Complexity and Randomness (CCR 2012). July 2-6, 2012, Cambridge, England. This event will be held at the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences as a part of the semester-long Institute program, Semantics and Syntax: A Legacy of Alan Turing. The confirmed invited speakers include: G. Barmpalias, V. Brattka, A. Day, J. Hitchcock, M. Hoyrup, M. Koucký, A. Lewis, J. Lutz, A. Nies, A. Shen, S. Simpson, and D. Turetsky. The Co-chairs of the Program Committee are

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## CALENDAR OF SPONSORED MEETINGS (continued)

E. Mayordomo and W. Merkle. For further information, visit http://math.uni-heidelberg.de/logic/ conferences/ccr2012/.

• Nineteenth Workshop on Logic, Language, Information and Computation (WoLLIC'2012). September 3-6, 2012, Buenos Aires, Argentina. This is the nineteenth in a series of workshops intended to foster interdisciplinary research in pure and applied logic. The Chair of the Program Committee is L. Ong. The Co-chairs of the Organizing Committee are C. Areces and R. de Queiroz. The deadline for submission of abstracts for contributed papers is April 27, 2012, and full papers must be submitted by May 4, 2012. For further information, visit http://wollic.org/wollic2012/.

CALENDAR OF OTHER MEETINGS (Also see http://www.aslonline.org.)

- Second Set Theory and General Topology Week (STW 2012). February 27-March 2, 2012, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. This meeting is in honor of F. Tall, on the occasion of his retirement. The invited speakers include: O. Alas, L. Aurichi, I. Castro-Pereira, R. Exel, L. Junqueira, C. Morgan, C. di Prisco, F. Tall, R. de la Vega, Daniel Vendrúscolo, and A. Villaveces. The President of the Scientific Committee is O. Alas, and the Chair of the Organizing Committee is S.G. da Silva. For further information, visit http://www.veraomat.ufba.br/Topologia.htm.
- Spring 2012 Mid-Atlantic Mathematical Logic Seminar. March 9-10, 2012, New York, New York. Confirmed invited speakers include: D. Aspero, G. Cherlin, J. Kennedy, K. Lange, J. Reimann, M. Soskova, H. Towsner, and J. Väänänen. The meeting also will include a panel discussion on *The unity and diversity of logic* moderated by R. Miller with the panelists G. Cherlin, J.D. Hamkins, R. Parikh, and J. Väänänen. The organizers are: G. Fuchs, R. Kossak, R. Miller, and R. Steiner. For further information, visit http://nylogic.org/MAMLS\_GC\_2012.
- Eighteenth International Conference on Logic for Programming Artificial Intelligence and Reasoning (LPAR-18). March 10-15, 2012, Merida, Venezuela. The Program Committee Chairs are N. Bjorner and A. Voronkov, the Conference Chair is G. Sutcliffe, and the Local Arrangements Chair is B. Abraham. For more information, visit http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/redmond/events/lpar18/.
- Newton Institute Workshop: Logical Approaches to Barriers in Complexity II. March 26-30, 2012, Cambridge, England. This workshop, organized by A. Beckmann and A. Dawar, is associated with the sixmonth Newton Institute program on "Semantics and Syntax: A Legacy of Alan Turing". It will focus on logical descriptions of complexity, i.e., descriptive complexity, propositional proof complexity, and bounded arithmetic. Tutorials will be offered by S.R. Buss and S. Kreutzer. The invited speakers include: A. Atserias, Y. Chen, S. Dantchev, A. Durand, B. Holm, J. Kontinen, J. Krajíček, P.T. Nguyen, R. Santhanam, N. Schweikardt, and N. Thapen. For further information contact A. Beckmann (email: a.beckmann@swansea.ac.uk) or visit http://www.newton.ac.uk/programmes/SAS/sasw01.html. For more information on the "Semantics and Syntax: A Legacy of Alan Turing" program, visit http://www.newton.ac.uk/programmes/SAS/index.html.
- Twenty-eighth Conference on the Mathematical Foundations of Programming Semantics (MFPS 2012). June 6-9, 2012, Bath, England. The invited speakers include: S. Awodey, M. Clarkson, P. Johann, D. Kozen, D. Moshier, and J. Power. Four tutorial lectures also are planned. There also will be special sessions on: computability on continuous data; computational effects; logic, computation, and algebraic topology; and, security. The Chair of the Program Committee is U. Berger, and local arrangements are being overseen by G. McCusker and J. Power. For further information, visit http://www.math.tulane.edu/~mfps/MFPS28.
- Model Theory in Algebra, Analysis and Arithmetic. July 2–6, 2012, Cetraro, Italy. This event, under the auspices of the 2012 program of CIME (International Mathematical Summer Center) includes the following four courses (with lecturers in parentheses): Model theory of valued fields (L. van den Dries); On the model theory

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## CALENDAR OF OTHER MEETINGS (continued)

of real and complex exponentiation (A. Wilkie); Theories without the independence property (A. Pillay); and, Undecidability in number theory (J. Koenigsmann). Additional talks by A. Macintyre and S. Starchenko are also planned, and there will be a poster session. The course directors are D. Macpherson and C. Toffalori. Applications for grants to attend this event must be submitted by April 15, 2012. For further information visit http://php.math.unifi.it/users/cime/ or contact C. Toffalori at carlo.toffalori@unicam.it.

- Twenty-fourth European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information (ESSLLI-2012). August 6–17, 2012, Opole, Poland. The European Summer Schools in Logic, Language and Information focus on the interface between linguistics, logic and computation. Foundational, introductory and advanced courses, together with workshops, cover a wide variety of topics within the three areas of interest: Language and Computation, Language and Logic, and Logic and Computation. The Chair of the Program Committee is A. Herzig and the Local Co-chair is A. Pietryga. The Organizing Committee Co-Chairs are J. Czelakowski and U. Wybraniec-Skardowska. ESSLLI-2012 is organized under the auspices of the European Association for Logic, Language and Information (FoLLI). For more information about ESSLLI-2012 visit http://www.esslli2012.pl; for further information about FoLLI, visit http://www.folli.org.
- East-Asian School on Logic, Language, and Computation (EASLLC 2012). August 27-31, 2012, Chongqing, China. This is a school for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars, similar in spirit to the annual ESSLLI summer schools in Europe and the Sino-European Summer School on Logic, Language, and Computation, which took place in Guangzhou, China in December 2010. The program will consist of nine courses in three different tracks: logic, language, and computation. It will also feature one plenary evening talk for a wider audience. For the logic track the lecturers include: F. Liu, R. Parikh, and J. Väänänen. The lecturers for the language track are: P. Jacobson, G.K. Pullum, and D. Westerståhl. For the computation track, the speakers are: K.R. Apt, P.G. Kolaitis, and M.Y. Vardi . The Program Committee Chair is P.G. Kolaitis, and the Local Organizers are M. Guo, M. Ma, J. Wang, and X. Tang. An international conference will precede the school on August 25-26, 2012. For more information, visit http://home.hib.no/prosjekter/easllc2012/.

# OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS (Also see http://www.aslonline.org.)

- 2012 CRM-Fields-PIMS Prize to Stevo Todorcevic. Stevo Todorcevic, who holds a Canada Research Chair at the University of Toronto, is the winner of the 2012 CRM-Fields-PIMS Prize. The CRM-Fields-PIMS Prize is the premier Canadian award for research achievements in the mathematical sciences. The prize winner is invited to give a lecture at each of the institutes and the prize includes a cash award of CAN\$10,000. Todorcevic was cited for his strikingly original and technically brilliant contributions to set theory, which have made him a world leader in the subject, with a particular impact on combinatorial set theory and its connections with topology and analysis. For further information, visit http://www.pims.math.ca/news/prof-stevo-todorcevic-awarded-crm-fields-pims-prize or http://www.crm.umontreal.ca/prix/prixCRMFieldsPIMS/prixCFP12\_fr.shtml.
- Call for Nominations: 2012 Ackermann Award. The European Association for Computer Science Logic (EASCSL) invites submissions for its Outstanding Dissertation Award for Logic in Computer Science (Ackermann Award). To be eligible for the 2012 Ackermann Award, the candidate must have completed a Ph.D. dissertation in topics specified by the EACSL and LICS conferences that was formally accepted as a Ph.D. thesis at a university or equivalent institution between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2011. The deadline for submission is April 15, 2012; details are available at http://www.eacsl.org/submissionsAck.html. For the years 2010-2012, the Award is sponsored by the Kurt Gödel Society.

# The next Newsletter will be sent in April 2012. Items to be included should reach the Secretary-Treasurer before March 31, 2012.

Submitted by Charles Steinhorn, Secretary-Treasurer.