Association for Symbolic Logic

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ASL NEWSLETTER September 2008

- **In Memoriam: Andrej Muchnik.** Andrej Muchnik, one of the most talented Russian mathematical logicians and computer scientists of his generation, died in Moscow on March 18, 2007.

  He was born in Moscow into a family of mathematicians—Albert Muchnik (of the Friedberg-Muchnik Theorem) and Nadezhda Ermolaeva— and studied at Moscow State University. His master's thesis adviser was Alexey Semenov, which started a lifelong collaboration and friendship. Muchnik's master's thesis contained a new proof of Rabin's theorem on the decidability of the monadic second order theory of two successors that eliminated transfinite induction.

  He worked at first in language theory and logic before concentrating his attention on algorithmic information theory. Muchnik developed some game-theoretic and probabilistic tools that allowed him to prove several results, including the conditional codes theorem, the algorithmic counterpart of the Slepian-Wolf Theorem.

  Muchnik strongly believed in God and in the consistency of the world around us. He always sought to find and follow the unique correct way of doing things, which could sometimes cause practical complications. His desire to see his ideas written down perfectly usually postponed their publication for many years, until friends or coauthors stepped in to help with writing; he formally received his Ph.D. degree only in 2001, when he was quite well known internationally.

  Muchnik was an active and uniquely gifted participant and leader in the "Kolmogorov seminar" at Moscow State University. Many of the most interesting results obtained by seminar participants were obtained by him or arose from his ideas. He was always ready to share his thoughts about mathematics. In 2006 he shared the Kolmogorov Prize of the Russian Academy of Sciences with Semenov.

  Andrej Muchnik's sudden death is a great loss both for the Moscow theoretical computer science and mathematical logic community and, more personally for all his colleagues and friends.

- **The 2008 ASL Election.** At the end of this year the ASL will elect two members of the Executive Committee of the Council, and two members of the Council. All terms are for three years beginning January 1, 2009. The ballot will be sent to all ASL members in mid-November. The 2008 Nominating Committee has nominated Lev Beklemishev (Steklov) and Roman Kossak (CUNY) for the Executive Committee positions, and Ayse Berkman (Ankara) and R. Ramanujam (CIT, Institute of Math Sciences, Chennai) for the Council positions. The Nominating Committee consisted of Michael Hallett, Steffen Lempp, Rohit Parikh, John Steel (Chair), Stan Wainer, and Carol Wood.

  Additional nominations may be made by petition signed by 10 or more ASL members; such petitions should be received by the ASL Secretary-Treasurer (email `asl@vassar.edu` or ASL, Box 742, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12604, USA) no later than November 1, 2008. In a contested election, each candidate has the opportunity to make a 100-word statement to be distributed with the ballot.

- **2008 Sacks Prize.** The ASL invites nominations for the 2008 Sacks Prize for the most outstanding doctoral dissertation in mathematical logic. Nominations must be received by September 30, 2008. The Sacks Prize was established to honor Professor Gerald Sacks of MIT and Harvard for his unique contribution to mathematical logic, particularly as adviser to a large number of excellent Ph.D. students. The Prize was first awarded in 1994 and became an ASL Prize in 1999. The Fund on which the Prize is based is now administered by the ASL and the selection of the recipient is made by the ASL Committee on Prizes and Awards. The Sacks Prize will consist of a cash award plus five years free membership in the ASL. For general information about the Prize, visit `http://www.aslonline.org/info-prizes.html`.

Anyone who wishes to make a nomination for the 2008 Sacks Prize should consult the webpage `http://www.aslonline.org/Sacks_nominations.html` for the precise details of the application process. A brief summary of the procedure is provided below.

Students who defend their dissertations (equivalent to the American doctoral dissertation) between October 1, 2007, and September 30, 2008, are eligible for the Prize this year. This is an international prize, with no restriction on the nationality of the candidate or the university where the doctorate is granted. Nominations should be made by the thesis adviser, and consist of: name of student, title and 1–2 page description of dissertation, date and location where the doctorate was awarded, letter of recommendation from the adviser, and an electronic copy of the thesis in .pdf or .ps form, or the address of a web site from which an electronic copy in .pdf or .ps form can be downloaded. An independent second letter of recommendation is strongly encouraged. Nominations should be sent to the Committee Chair, Julia Knight; .pdf or .ps files sent as attachments by email to `Julia.F.Knight.1@nd.edu` are preferred. The form of such letters and other pertinent details can be found at the web site above, and need to be read prior to submitting a nomination. Correspondence should be addressed to Julia Knight, Department of Mathematics, University of Notre Dame, 255 Hurley Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556-4618 USA.

Those wishing to contribute to the Sacks Prize Fund may send contributions to the ASL office (ASL, Box 742, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York 12604). All such contributions are tax-deductible within the USA.

- **ASL Newsletter via Email.** Beginning with this issue, the ASL Newsletter will be sent by email to all members for whom the ASL has an email address and who do not specifically request to be sent the printed version. To exercise this "opt-out"provision, either notify the ASL's subscription fulfillment agent at `asl-service@ams.org` or check the appropriate box on 2009 membership renewal forms that will be mailed in November.

- **New Member Benefit: *The Review of Symbolic Logic.*** Individual ASL members now receive the new ASL journal, *The Review of Symbolic Logic*, as an additional benefit of membership. Publication of the *RSL* by Cambridge University Press commenced in June 2008, and members should have received the first issue.

  Joining *The Journal of Symbolic Logic* and *The Bulletin of Symbolic Logic* as the third official organ of the Association, the *RSL* publishes research papers in: philosophical and non-classical logics and their applications; history and philosophy of logic; and philosophy and methodology of mathematics. The first heading covers all areas of philosophical logic, plus applications of these logics in such fields as computer science, linguistics, game theory and decision theory, formal epistemology, cognitive science, and artificial intelligence. The second is intended to include the history of philosophy of logic, an area that overlaps substantially with what is often called 'history of analytic philosophy'. The third area includes both the philosophy of mathematics and methodological studies of mathematical practice, past and present.

  For more information about the *RSL*, including a complete listing of its Editors and Advisory Board, visit `http://www.aslonline.org/journals-review.html`.

- **Call for Proposals: 2011 North American Annual Meeting.** The ASL Committee on Logic in North America requests proposals for the 2011 ASL North American Annual meeting, to be held sometime in the first five months of 2011. The committee seeks a university somewhere in North America and a local committee to host the meeting and handle the local arrangements. The ASL meetings ordinarily cycle geographically in the pattern: West (Irvine 2008), Midwest (Notre Dame 2009), East (site for 2010 still to be determined). Thus, for 2011 the committee seeks a location in the West. Any reasonable proposal, however, will be considered. For more information, interested parties should contact the Committee Chair, Jeremy Avigad (email: `avigad@cmu.edu`) no later than November 1, 2008.

- **Call for Proposals: 2010 AMS-ASL Joint Special Session.** The ASL Committee on Meetings in North America requests proposals for an AMS-ASL Joint Special Session to be held at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Francisco, January 6–9, 2010. Proposals or requests for further information should be sent to the Committee Chair, Jeremy Avigad (email: `avigad@cmu.edu`). The deadline for receipt of proposals is January 16, 2009.

- **Discounted subscription rate to *Philosophia Mathematica* for ASL members.** Oxford Journals, part of Oxford University Press, now offers ASL members a discounted rate on personal subscriptions (print, with free online access) to the journal *Philosophia Mathematica*. The discounted price for 2009 is £26 ($52, 39 euros). ASL members can order a subscription either at `http://philmat.oxfordjournals.org/` (where more information about the journal may be found) or by writing to: Oxford University Press, 2001 Evans Road, Cary NC 27513, USA (Tel: +1 919-677-0977 or 1-800-852-7323 (toll-free in USA/Canada); Fax: +1 919-677-1714).

- **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.

- **Special Sale of ASL Books.** For a limited time, the ASL is making available the following volumes from its book series at an additional discount.

  Lecture Notes in Logic (each volume $12 for ASL members, $16 for non-members): LNL vol. 11, *Logic Colloquium '95; Proceedings of the Annual European Summer Meeting of the Association for Symbolic Logic, held in Haifa, Israel, August 9-18, 1995*; LNL vol. 12, *Logic Colloquium '96; Proceedings of the Colloquium held in San Sebastian, Spain, July 9-15, 1996*.

  Perspectives in Logic (each volume $18 for ASL members, $24 for non-members): *Essential Stability Theory* by S. Buechler; *Metamathematics of First Order Arithmetic* by P. Hajek and P. Pudlak.

  To order these volumes, contact the ASL Business Office: ASL, Box 742, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York 12604, USA; Tel: 1-845-437-7080; Fax: 1-845-437-7830; email: `asl@vassar.edu`.

ASL MEETINGS

- **Student Travel Awards: The 2009 ASL Annual Meeting, 2009 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 2009 ASL Annual Meeting in Notre Dame, Indiana, or the 2009 ASL European Summer Meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria; see below for information about these meetings. 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, in the case of an ASL student member application to attend an ASL or ASL-sponsored meeting other than the Annual Meeting or European Summer Meeting*, 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 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 2009 ASL Annual Meeting, applications and recommendations should be received before the deadline of March 9, 2009, by the Program Chair: A. Urquhart, Department of Computer Science, Sandford Fleming Bldg., 10 King's College Rd., Univ. of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5S 3G4, CANADA; Fax: 416-978-8703; email: `urquhart@cs.toronto.edu`. Applications by email are preferred.

  For the 2009 ASL European Summer Meeting, applications and recommendations should be received before the deadline of March 30, 2009, by the Organizing Committee: Logic Colloquium 2009, Department of Mathematical Logic, Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, Sofia University, 5 James Bourchier Blvd., 1164 Sofia, Bulgaria; email: `lc2009@fmi.uni-sofia.bg`.

  For ASL student member travel grants to other ASL or ASL-sponsored meetings, 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.

- **2008-09 ASL Winter Meeting (with APA).** *December 27–30, 2008, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.* This meeting will be held jointly with the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association. The program includes three invited sessions. For the first, a panel on *Historical Ideals of Rigor in Mathematics*, the invited speakers are: J. Folina, D. Jesseph, and D. Schlimm. The second invited panel, on *Diagrammatic Reasoning in Mathematics*, includes the following speakers: E. Grosholz, K. Manders, and S.-J. Shin. The speaker for the third invited session is S. Kripke, whose talk is entitled, *The Collapse of the Hilbert Program*. The members of the Program Committee are W. Ewald (Chair), J. Floyd, and M. Hallett. A registration form and hotel information is enclosed in this Newsletter mailing.

- **2008-09 ASL Winter Meeting (with Joint Mathematics Meetings).** *January 7–8, 2009, Washington, DC.* This meeting will take place in conjunction with the Joint Mathematics Meetings. The invited speakers include: B. Csima, I. Epstein, R. Moosa, C. Rosendal, Jouko Väänänen, and A. Visser. In addition to the ASL program, there will be two joint AMS-ASL Special Sessions: "Logic and Dynamical Systems," organized by S. Simpson, "Model Theoretic Methods in Finite Combinatorics," organized by M. Grohe and J. Makowsky. The members of the Program Committee are A. Enayat (Chair), S. Thomas, and R. Weber. A registration form and hotel information is enclosed in this Newsletter mailing.

- **2009 ASL North American Annual Meeting.** *May 20–23, 2009, Notre Dame, Indiana.* The members of the Program Committee are: R. Heck, W. Henson, J. Knight, R. Moosa, A. Urquhart (Chair), and M. Zeman. The members of the Local Organizing Committee include: T. Bays, P. Blanchette, S. Buechler, P. Cholak, M. Detlefsen (Co-chair), C. Franks, J. Knight, and S. Starchenko (Co-chair). 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 must be received by the deadline of February 9, 2009, 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.

- **2009 ASL European Summer Meeting (Logic Colloquium '09).** *July 31–August 5, 2009, Sofia, Bulgaria.* The Program Committee includes: S. Abramsky, K. Ambos-Spies, J. Bagaria (Chair), F. Ferreira, M. Goldstern, E. Grädel, E. Hrushovski, T. Hyttinen, Y. Moschovakis, M. Otero, S. Shapiro, I. Soskov, and W.H. Woodin. The Local Organizing Committee includes: D. Dobrev, D. Guelev, L. Ivanov, S. Nikolova, S. Passy, A. Soskova (Chair), M. Soskova, M. Yanchev, and A. Zinoviev. For further information, visit http://lc2009.fmi.uni-sofia.bg/.

  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 April 15, 2009 at the official meeting address: Logic Colloquium 2009, Department of Mathematical Logic, Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, Sofia University, 5 James Bourchier Blvd., 1164 Sofia, Bulgaria; email: lc2009@fmi.uni-sofia.bg.

- **2010 ASL North American Annual Meeting.** *March 17–20, 2010, Washington, D.C.* The Local Organizing Committee includes: A. Enayat, A. Eskandarian, J. Goodrick, V. Harizanov (Chair), and A. Kolesnikov.

- **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. *The rules were recently revised and all authors who wish to submit abstracts are urged to consult the new rules.* 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

- **Third Indian Conference on Logic and its Applications.** *January 7–11, 2009, Chennai, India.* The invited speakers thus far include: J. van Benthem, R. Goré, J. Hamkins, J. Makowsky, R. Parikh, and M. Vardi.

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The Co-chairs of the Program Committee are: R. Ramanujam and S. Sarukkai. The Chair of the Organizing Committee is S. P Suresh. For further information, visithttp://ali.cmi.ac.in/icla2009/index.html.

- **Young Researchers in Set Theory Workshop 2009.** *April 6–10, 2009, Barcelona, Spain.* The aim of this conference, to be hosted by the Centre de Recerca Mathemàtica (CRM), is to bring together Ph.D. students and postdocs in set theory in order 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: M. Dzamonja, M. Gitik, E. Schimmerling, and B. Velickovic. The Local Organizing Committee includes: D. Aspero, N. Castells, M.A. Moto, and J. Veldman. For further information, visit `http://wwwmath.uni-muenster.de/logik/YS09/`.
- **Fourth Conference on Logic, Computability and Randomness.** *June 29–July 3, 2009, Marseille, France.* This event, to be held at the International Center for Mathematical Meetings (CIRM), will focus on algorithmic randomness (Kolmogorov complexity) and its connections to classical computability and degrees, combinatorics, computable analysis, computational complexity and pseudo-randomness, dynamical systems, and mathematical logic. The Local Organizing Committee includes: L. Bienvenu, B. Durand, and A. Shen. The members of the Steering Committee are: V. Becher, R. Downey, B. Durand, D. Hirschfeldt, W. Merkle, and A. Shen. For further information, visit `http://www.lif.univ-mrs.fr/lce/index.html`.

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

- **Call for Submissions: the Ferran Sunyer i Balaguer Prize.** This 12,000 euro prize will be awarded for a mathematical monograph of an expository nature presenting the latest developments in an active area of research in mathematics, in which the applicant has made important contributions. Submissions should be sent before December 4, 2008. For further information, visit `http://ffsb.iec.cat`.

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

- **MAMLS Meeting in Honor of Gregory Cherlin's Sixtieth Birthday.** *October 24–26, 2008, New Brunswick, New Jersey.* The invited speakers include: J. Baldwin, Z. Chatzidakis, L. van den Dries, E. Hrushovski, E. Jaligot, A. Macintyre, B. Poizat, S. Shelah, A. Wilkie, and B. Zilber. For further information, visit `http://www.math.rutgers.edu/~sthomas/RU2008`.
- **MODNET Barcelona Conference.** *November, 3–7, 2008, Barcelona, Spain.* This is the final conference of the FP6 Marie Curie Research Training Network in Model Theory and its Applications (MODNET), funded by the European Commission. This meeting in part is in honor of the sixtieth birthday of Alex Wilkie; the lectures on November 6th will focus on those Modnet themes in which he has been particularly influential. The invited one-hour speakers include: H. Adler, I. Ben-Yaacov, A. Borovik, Z. Chatzidakis, R. Cluckers, A. Deloro, D. Evans, G. Jones, F. Loeser, A. Macintyre, L. Newelski, J. Pila, A. Pillay, M. Prest, J-P. Rolin, T. Scanlon, Z. Sela, S. Starchenko, L. van den Dries, A. Wilkie, and B. Zilber. The members of the Scientific Committee are E. Bouscaren, E. Casanovas, D. Macpherson (Chair), D. Marker, and F. Wagner. The members of the Local Organizing Committee are E. Casanovas, P. Eleftheriou, R. Farré, M. Otero, and J. Potier. For further information visit `http://www.ub.es/modeltheory/modnet/`.
- **Workshop on Logic and Search (LaSh08).** *November 6–7, 2008, Leuven, Belgium.* This meeting provides a discussion forum for research in propositional satisfiability (SAT), constraint programming (CP), and answer set programming (ASP) that focuses on the computation of structures from declarative descriptions. The invited speakers include P. Van Hentenryck and R. Nieuwenhuis. The Program Chair is M. Denecker; the local organizers are M. Denecker and J. Vennekens. For further information, visit `http://www.cs.kuleuven.be/~dtai/LaSh08`.

Calendar of other meetings continued on reverse side

- **Midwest Model Theory Meeting.** *November 15–16, 2008, Notre Dame, Indiana.* The invited speakers include: R. Jin, J. Marikova, A. Medvedev, S. Randriambololona, A. Razborov, and C. Rosendal. For further information, contact S. Starchenko (`sstarche@nd.edu`) or visit `http://www.nd.edu/~sstarche/mwmt08/`.
- **International Conference on Formal Methods in Computer-Aided Design (FMCAD 2008).** *November 17-20, 2008, Portland, Oregon.* This event, the eighth in a series on the theory and application of formal methods in hardware and system design and verification, provides a forum for researchers and practitioners in academia and industry. The Co-chairs of the Program Committee are A. Cimatti and R. Jones. For further information, visit `http://fmcad.org/2008`.
- **International Conference on Logic for Programming Artificial Intelligence and Reasoning (LPAR 2008).** *November 23–27, 2008, Doha, Qatar.* The invited speakers include: M. Backes, E. Clarke, T. Eiter, and A. Pnuelir. The General Chair is I. Cervesato; the Program Co-Chairs are I. Cervesato and A. Voronkov; and the Workshop Chair is L. Kovács. The Local Arrangements Chair is T. Sans. For further information, visit `http://www.qatar.cmu.edu/lpar08`.
- **Twenty-fourth International Conference on Logic Programming (ICLP'08).** *December 9–13, 2008, Udine, Italy.* This conference series is the premier international event for presenting research in logic programming. The General Chair is A. Dovier; the Program Co-Chairs are M. Garcia de la Banda and E. Pontelli; and the Workshop Chair is T.C. Son. The members of the Local Organizing Committee include: A. Casagrande, E. De Maria, L. Di Gaspero, and C. Piazza. For further information, visit `http://iclp08.dimi.uniud.it`.
- **Colloquium on Implementation of Constraint and Logic Programming Systems (CICLOPS 2008).** *December 9–13, 2008, Udine Italy.* This event, colocated with ICLP'08 (see above), focuses on on the design, implementation, and optimization of logic, constraint (logic) programming systems, and systems intimately related to logic as a means to express computations. For further information, visit `http://www.clip.dia.fi.upm.es/Conferences/CICLOPS-2008/`.
- **Symposium on Logical Foundations of Computer Science (LFCS 2009).** *January 3–6, 2009, Deerfield Beach, Florida.* The LFCS series focuses on areas of fundamental theoretical logic related to computer science. The members of the LFCS Steering Committee are: S. Cook, D. van Dalen, Y. Matiyasevich, J. McCarthy, A. Nerode (General Chair), J.A. Robinson, G. Sacks,and D. Scott. The Chair of the Program Committee for LFCS 2009 is S. Artemov, and the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee is R. Lubarsky. For further information, visit `http://lfcs.info/lfcs09/`.
- **Very Informal Gathering of Logicians.** *January 30–February 1, 2009, Los Angeles, California.* The fifteenth in a series of logic meetings at UCLA that began in 1976, this event in part is in honor of John Steel on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday. Its focus is on areas of logic related to Steel's work, including descriptive set theory, inner models, recursion theory, reverse mathematics, and philosophy of mathematics. The invited speakers include: G. Hjorth, A. Louveau, P. Maddy, A. Miller, W. Mitchell, I. Neeman, S. Simpson, T. Slaman, and W.H. Woodin. The organizers are A. Kechris, E. Schimmerling, and the logicians at UCLA. Travel grants are available for graduate students and junior faculty members without federal research grants; mathematicians from underrepresented groups are especially encouraged to apply. Funding for the meeting is provided by the National Science Foundation and the UCLA Logic Center. For further information visit `http://www.math.ucla.edu/~ineeman/Conf/SteelVIG.htm`.

The next Newsletter will be sent in November, 2008. Items to be included should reach the Secretary-Treasurer before October 31, 2008.

Submitted by Charles Steinhorn, Secretary-Treasurer.