

Mathematics award given to UCSD professor Bruce K. Driver

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MATHEMATICS AWARD GIVEN TO UCSD PROFESSOR

Bruce K. Driver, an associate professor of mathematics at the University of California, San Diego, has been awarded a 1996 Rollo Davidson Prize for his work in probability theory. His research focuses on questions that might lead to a better understanding of quantum field theory--a class of mathematical theories used by physicists to describe subatomic particles.

Driver analyzes mathematical problems that are similar to real-life problems. These range from computing the frequencies you hear when plucking a guitar string to the predicting future temperatures of a bent metal plate.

"Quantum field theories deal with the same issues as these and are closely related to the mathematical theories I am studying," said Driver. "A future goal is to use the ideas developed in my work to better understand these quantum theories."

In mathematical parlance, Driver's studies involve the "stochastic analyses of path and loop spaces," for which he received his award, delivered annually since 1976 by the Rollo Davidson Trust, based in England.

This year's other Rollo Davidson Prize winner was Jean Bertoin of the Universite Pierre et Marie Curie.

Driver joined the UCSD faculty in 1993 from the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J. Prior to that time, he was a research assistant and teaching assistant with the mathematics department at Cornell University.

His previous awards include the UCSD Chancellor's Summer Faculty Fellowship, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, a three-year teaching fellowship at Cornell, and the Eastman Kodak Academic Scholar award.

Driver received his Ph.D. and master of science degree in mathematics from Cornell and a bachelor of science degree from the University of Massachusetts.

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