

NOTICES

- **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 advisor 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.

- **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