

Dear Friends of Mathematics

The past year saw the realization of two major initiatives and substantial headway on a third. First was the Clay Senior Scholar program, designed to bring leading mathematicians to a university or institute program for a substantial period of time to exchange ideas and conduct research. Senior scholars play key roles: lecturing, mentoring graduate students and postdocs, conducting the formal and informal discussions that are the lifeblood of mathematical discourse. Senior scholars also give public lectures that reach out to a broader audience. CMI posts these on its website for wide dissemination and will later publish them as part of a collection. Richard Stanley (MIT) and Bernd Sturmfels (UC Berkeley) were CMI's first Senior Scholars. They participated in the Institute for Advanced Studies' Park City Mathematics Institute. CMI has appointed five Senior Scholars for the 2004–5 academic year.

The second initiative, carried out in partnership with the Bodleian Library at Oxford and Octavo Corporation of Oakland, California, was to produce and disseminate the first complete digital edition of one of the early Greek manuscripts of Euclid's Elements. Of these manuscripts, we chose the one at the Bodleian library because of its fine state of preservation and its unique status as the oldest surviving Euclid manuscript. It dates from the year 888 when it was copied by Stephen the Clerk in Constantinople (see p. 8). While CMI's primary mission is the creation and dissemination of mathematical knowledge, we believe that preservation of our subject's 4000-year history—by far the oldest of any science—is also of great value.

The third initiative is the final step in the move to CMI's new quarters at One Bow Street—the outfitting of its “back space” for lectures and workshops, now named the Hilbert space. The first use of the Hilbert space was on November



Bodleian Library, Oxford University

3 and 4, just prior to the Annual Meeting, when three of CMI's Fellows—Manjul Bhargava, Dennis Gaitsgory, and Maryam Mirzakhani—gave a series of talks. In March CMI held its first workshop in the new space. Organized by Haynes Miller (MIT) and Jack Morava (Johns Hopkins), the workshop brought twenty researchers together for three days of intensive work and discussion. With excellent facilities and support staff, many restaurants nearby, and a hotel just across the street, the space is ideal for small research meetings. CMI looks forward to your proposals!

Sincerely,

James A. Carlson, President