has also been awarded the Richard-Von-Misses Prize 2006 of the *Gesellschaft für Angewandte Mathematik und Mechanik (GAMM)*.

Xavier Tolsa was a *Ramón y Cajal* researcher at the UAB, but after some spectacular work in which he solved a famous problem of Painlevé's and proved the additivity of the analytic capacity, ICREA offered him a permanent position so he could stay and carry out his work in Catalonia. In 2002 he received the prestigious Salem price, and in 2004 the price of the European Mathematical Society. He is one of the invited speakers at the ICM 2006. His areas of research are Harmonic and Complex Analysis.

In the 2003 call for positions ICREA hired Xavier Cabré and Sy D. Friedman. X. Cabré works at the Department of Applied Mathematics I of the Technical University of Catalonia, in Barcelona, and his area of research are the Partial Differential Equations. He obtained his PhD at the Courant Institute of New York and was Associate Professor at the University of Texas at Austin until 2003, when he returned to Catalonia.

Sy D. Friedman was for 26 years Professor of Mathematics at the Massachussetts Institute of Technology, and is currently *Ordentliche Universitäts-Professor* and Director of the Kurt Gödel Institute for Mathematical Logic at the University of Vienna. He is joining ICREA gradually and his total incorporation at the Centre de Recerca Matemàtica, in Bellaterra (Barcelona), is expected to take place during the academic course 2006–2007. He works on Mathematical Logic.

Finally, in 2005, ICREA hired a junior researcher in Mathematics, David Asperó. He got his doctorate at the University of Barcelona and has been a postdoctoral researcher in Vienna, Helsinki, and Bristol. He is currently at the University of Barcelona and his research interests are in Set Theory, especially forcing axioms and combinatorics.

It is expected that in the next years ICREA will continue hiring mathematicians, both senior and junior, who will contribute with their work to the increase in quality of the mathematical research done in Catalonia.

Joan Bagaria
ICREA Director's Scientific Advisor and
ICREA Research Professor

Federació d'Entitats per a l'Ensenyament de les Matemàtiques a Catalunya (FEEMCAT)

Introduction

The Federation of Organisations for the Teaching of Mathematics in Catalonia (FEEMCAT) is a non-profit association and its objectives are to improve the teaching of Mathematics at all levels of education, by improving teacher training, the mathematical training of students and society's view of Mathematics.

Apart from the groups that currently form part of FEEMCAT, at the beginning the Federation also included the participation of groups of Mathematics teachers and lecturers working in Girona (Grup Perímetre, Grup +3), Osona (Grup + o −), Lleida and Tàrrega (Grup Nombres de Ponent), and Barcelona (Grups Almosta de l'Associació de Mestres de Rosa Sensat) The Societat d'Ensenyants de Matemàtiques del Garraf (Society of Mathematics Teachers of El Garraf, SEMG) also formed part of the Federation between 1999 and 2005. Most members of these groups have gradually joined the associations that make up the Federation today:

- Associació d'Ensenyants de Matemàtiques de les Comarques Gironines (ADEMGI)
- Associació de Professors de Matemàtiques de les Comarques Meridionals (APMCM)

- Associació de Professors de Matemàtiques del Maresme (APaMMs)
- Associació de Barcelona per a l'Estudi i l'Aprenentatge de les Matemàtiques (ABEAM)

Twelve years of activities

Journal *Biaix*

BIAIX was set up in April 1992 and is currently the only journal on Mathematical Education written entirely in Catalan. To find out all about *BIAIX* today, you can visit the website: www.xtec.es/entitats/BIAIX, where you will find the online version of the most recent issues.

Meetings and Congresses on Mathematical Education

In recent years, there have been more than 40 meetings with a total participation of more than 5,000 Mathematics teaching professionals.

Courses, seminars and work groups

Open to all teachers in Catalonia.

Maria Antònia Canals Prize

In 2002, FEEMCAT created the Maria Antònia Canals Prize with the aim of promoting innovation in education in the area of Mathematics at all levels of teaching, from pre-school to university.

Fem Matemàtiques

Fem Matemàtiques (Let's Do Mathematics) is currently an annual activity organised by FEEMCAT with the aim of contributing toward developing mathematical competence in all students in the sixth year of primary education and the first year of secondary education. It also provides for promoting experiences and sharing proposals by the teaching staff from different parts of Catalonia, and aims to raise the awareness of Catalan society in general about the need to improve a mathematical education that encourages the personal development and social integration of free and responsible citizens.

ESTALMAT

FEEMCAT and the SCM agreed in 2002 to jointly organise the Estalmat activity in Catalonia under the auspices of the Royal Academy of Sciences and with the support of the Vodafone Foundation. For more information, visit the project's website: www.estalmat.org

Working for the future

The Federation recently took part in the curricular debate at the Department of Education. For more information, you can visit the site www.gencat.net/educacio/debat. The document on technical and scientific education is available at the website http://xtec.net/e13_debatcurricular/docs/3.cientific.pdf. We have also contributed to the National Agreement on Education in Catalonia. You can view the document at http://www.xtec.net/entitats/feemcat/historia/activitats05/pne.pdf.

We are working for Catalonia to host a JAEM congress soon (Meeting on Teaching and Learning Mathematics). The Federation also continues with its aim to maintain the high standards achieved by the work groups in our activities and to take the first steps to form a team of teachers to design and create mathematical exhibitions.

Coordination work and relations with other organisations and between research groups, innovation teams and teachers associations require considerable development in order to be able to cooperate in research on adapting mathematical education to today's social challenges.

Pilar Royo
FEEMCAT President