Congratulations, Andy Liu!

It is with great pleasure that we congratulate Andy Liu on yet another award, confirming the high regard with which he is held in the international mathematical community. *CRUX with MAYHEM* is very proud to have had Andy Liu on its Editorial Board for many years.

The following can be seen on the World Wide Web at
http://www.case.org/awards/canpoy.htm

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education [USA]
and
The Canadian Council for Advancement and Support of Education

1998-1999 CANADIAN PROFESSORS OF THE YEAR

OUTSTANDING UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR
Andy Liu joined the faculty of the University of Alberta Mathematical Sciences department in 1980 and has been making a profound impact on the institution and its students ever since. His passions include a commitment to the study of mathematics and to developing innovative techniques that allow him to share his knowledge with students of all ages. “Students must not settle into passive learning but must be challenged to participate in the process,” explains Liu.

Liu’s success stems from his unique knack for presenting difficult concepts in a clear and logical manner. Former student William Willett said, “I have not been inspired to think and achieve by anyone more than Liu. He is not the type of instructor who just gives answers all the time; he inspires students to think.” By providing practical examples of theoretical concepts, Liu helps his students understand and learn rather than simply memorize. “Those of us working in the area of education of gifted and talented children have long considered Liu to be a resource par excellence in mathematics education,” said a colleague, Carolyn R. Yewchuk.

In the classroom, Liu uses his lively sense of humour to maintain students’ interest. His pleasant demeanour creates a comfortable learning environment. “In every class, I know the names of all the students by the time of the midterm test,” says Liu. He has even mastered the art of writing upside down so students can follow his written explanations while meeting with him at his desk.

Liu extends himself beyond the campus in a variety of ways. His on-and off-campus lectures as well as the courses he has designed, reflect his extraordinary talent. Liu is a strong supporter of mathematical competitions as a way to motivate and promote interest in mathematics. He has participated in mathematical competitions on the local, provincial, national, and international levels. He has provided training sessions for University of Alberta undergraduate students, prepared training materials for a number of national Mathematical Olympiad teams, and conducted training sessions for the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) teams of Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the United States. In 1995, he received the IMO Certificate of Appreciation and in 1996 received the David Hilbert International Award for the promotion of mathematics worldwide. Liu explains, “I feel that the University is an integral part of the community, and its involvement must extend beyond the confines of the campus. Also, learning is a universal endeavour which transcends political boundaries, and the university is first and foremost an international institution.”