

# NEWSLETTER

## Department of Mathematics & Statistics

Issue No. 18/03

Friday, 3 October 2003

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### PAPER

Rasmussen H, Wake GC, & Donaldson JD. "Analysis of a class of distributed delay logistic differential equations". *Mathematical and Computer Modelling*, Vol 38, 2003 pp 123-132.

*Graeme Wake*

### FORDER LECTURER 2003

Leading mathematics expositor visits Christchurch

In early October (12th-15th) Professor Caroline Series, from the University of Warwick visits Canterbury as part of a NZ-wide tour as Forder lecturer 2003. Caroline Series is a leading UK-based mathematician who is internationally well-known for her work in geometry and analysis. The work in geometry has led to the construction of algorithms that describe amazingly beautiful connected spherical shapes. These are described and illustrated in her book *Indras Pearls*, published recently by Cambridge University Press with co-authors David Mumford and David Wright. The title captures the idea prefigured in Buddhist mythology: the heaven of Indra contained a net of pearls, each of which was reflected in its neighbours, so that the whole Universe was mirrored in each pearl. This is the subject and title of her public lecture in Christchurch (**7.30 pm Monday 13th October, Central lecture theatre C2, University of Canterbury**).

Professor Series is known widely for her in-depth analysis of the geometrical properties of space and objects and her analysis of them, and is currently a Professor of Mathematics in the University of Warwick in England. She has been active in promoting the Women in Mathematics movement in the world and clearly provides a super role model. She has

given lectures in many countries and is active in promoting mathematics as a discipline.

The Forder lecturer commemorates the lifetime work of Henry Forder as Professor of Mathematics last century at the University of Auckland. In 1987, by agreement between the London Mathematical Society and its NZ counterpart (the NZ Mathematical Society) an arrangement was made to have every two years a leading British mathematician to tour the country as a visiting speaker. Caroline Series is the ninth in this sequence and the first ever woman to visit NZ as Forder Lecturer.

Professor Series lectures at the University are:

#### **Indras Pearls**

C2, University of Canterbury,  
7.30 pm Monday 13th October- public lecture, suitable for a general audience.

#### **Why is there Hyperbolic Geometry in Dynamics?,**

MSCS 446, University of Canterbury,  
4.10 pm Tuesday 14th October- Department of Math and Stat seminar.

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*Graeme Wake*

## DEPARTMENTAL VISITORS

<u>Current Visitors</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Room No.</u>	<u>Ext. No.</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Assoc. Prof. Peter <b>Lockhart</b>	Massey University	616	8876	6-Oct-02	20-Oct-04
Richard <b>Laugesen</b> , Prof	University of Illinois	710	7694	14-Jul-03	31-Mar-04
Gyou-Bong <b>Lee</b> , Prof	Paichai University, Korea	502	7663	15-Jul-03	14-Jul-04
Adrian <b>lordache</b> , Mr	University of Illinois	522	7695	1-Aug-03	31-Apr-04
Burkard <b>Polster</b> , Dr	Monash University	602	7687	15-Sep-03	20-Sep-03
<u>Visitor due to arrive</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Room No.</u>	<u>Ext. No.</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Peter David <b>Jarvis</b> , Assoc. Prof. Dr	University of Sydney	620	7431	5-Oct-03	25-Oct-03

### MATHEMATICIANS??

Two male mathematicians are in a bar. The first one says to the second that the average person knows very little about basic mathematics. The second one disagrees, and claims that most people can cope with a reasonable amount of math.

The first mathematician goes off to the washroom, and in his absence the second calls over the waitress. He tells her that in a few minutes, after his friend has returned, he will call her over and ask her a question. All she has to do is answer one third x cubed.

She repeats "one thir -- dex cue"?  
 He repeats "one third x cubed".  
 Her: "one thir dex cuebd"? Yes, that's right, he says. So she agrees, and goes off mumbling to herself, "one thir dex cuebd...".

The first guy returns and the second proposes a bet to prove his point, that most people do know something about basic math. He says he will ask the blonde waitress an integral, and the first laughingly agrees. The second man calls over the

waitress and asks "what is the integral of x squared?".

The waitress says "one third x cubed" and while walking away, turns back and says over her shoulder "plus a constant!"

*Frankly, this story is sad. Indeed, the blonde waitress solves the problem correctly, better than the poser. But he is a mathematician, and she cleans tables. Funny, isn't it?*

*Neil Watson*