

The SMS Distinguished

Profesor Jennifer Chayes,
Microsoft Research and UCLA

July 7 - 10, 1999

*S*ingapore Mathematical Society's Distinguished Visitor Programme was launched in January 1998. Through the visit of a distinguished mathematician, who will interact with both research mathematicians at the universities here as well as teachers and pupils at the schools, the aim of the programme is to expose as large and diverse an audience as possible to the excitement and relevance of mathematics, thereby enhancing the awareness of mathematics in our society.

In 1999, the Society is privileged to have as its Distinguished Visitor Professor Jennifer Chayes. One of the world's foremost experts in stochastic geometry, Professor Chayes attracted a lot of publicity when she was recruited by Microsoft Research from the University of California at Los Angeles to head its Theory Group. Her story, which was considered to be of great significance in the direction of commercial research in a knowledge economy, appeared in magazines such as Chronicle of Higher Education, Fortune and PC. Currently, Professor Chayes is interested in applying methods from mathematics and physics to problems in theoretical computer science, networking and information technology.

During her visit, in addition to the SMS Lecture in the Department of Mathematics, NUS, Professor Chayes' gave the SMS Distinguished Visitor Programme Lecture, also at NUS, on the topic "Order in Large Systems with Applications in Computer Science".

To complement the Distinguished Visitor Programme Lecture, the Society also organised a workshop for teachers on "Betting Strategies in Probabilistic Games" on July 10. The Workshop was conducted by Drs Chan Onn, Choi Kwok Pui and Yeo Kwee Poo and was attended by about 50 teachers.



VISITOR PROGRAMME