
Letters to the Editor

Australian National Mathematics Summer School Flourishing

The valedictory collection of articles in memory of Arnold Ross (June/July issue) contains an inaccuracy, in that it is reported that Arnold carried his program to “Australia, India, and West Germany, where local programs flourished for many years.” In fact, he was invited to the National Mathematics Summer School at the Australian National University by its founder, Larry Blakers, in 1975, when it was then in its seventh year. He returned for ten years, his last visit being in 1984.

His influence on the program was very significant, and aspects of his approach are still discernible to this day. But it was a going concern before he came, and it grows from strength to strength to this day. The past tense “flourished” is completely misleading.

The National Mathematics Summer School is now in its 36th consecutive year, with more than 2,500 past students now working on every continent in almost every profession, including of course mathematics. It very definitely continues to flourish. The next NMSS will be held at the Australian National University in Canberra from 4 January 2004 to 17 January 2004. Information about NMSS is available on <http://www.nmss.org.au>.

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Summer Studies Mathematician Alumnae

I really enjoyed the opinion piece by Allyn Jackson in the November issue, which beautifully captured the spirit of the Hampshire College Summer Studies in Mathematics. I strongly agree with Jackson that the Hampshire program, and similar ones, are “a national treasure.” I have an addendum to Jackson’s piece.

While Jackson correctly described the program as a boon for female mathematicians, for some reason I was the only female graduate of the Hampshire program mentioned. I would like to point out that there are, in fact, many alumnae of the program who are successful in mathematics and related fields, including Professor Lenore Cowen (computer science, Tufts), Dr. Stella Grosser (biostatistics, FDA), Professor Marcia Groszek (math, Dartmouth), Professor Marie des Jardins (computer science, UMBC), Professor Judith Miller (math, Georgetown), Professor Dana Randall (computer science, Georgia Tech), Professor Lisa Randall (physics, Harvard), Professor Serap Savari (EECS, University of Michigan), Professor Susan Staples (math, Texas Christian University), Professor Ann Trenk (math, Wellesley), and Professor Elizabeth Wilmer (math, Oberlin).

Thank you.

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