John von Neumann Theory Prize for Ruth Williams

Ruth Williams, who has a long association with Australian mathematics, has been awarded the 2016 John von Neumann Theory Prize, jointly with Marty Reiman of Columbia University. It recognises seminal research contributions they have made, over the past several decades, to the theory and applications of 'stochastic networks/systems' and their 'heavy traffic approximations'. These profound contributions have led to further breakthroughs in stochastic operations research in general, and queueing theory in particular.

This award is made annually by INFORMS, the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences, to a scholar (or scholars in the case of joint work) who has made fundamental, sustained contributions to theory in operations research and the management sciences. Previous winners include such distinguished names as George Dantzig, David Gale, Harold Kuhn, Albert Tucker, Michel Balinski, Martin Grötschel, Terry Rockafellar, Samuel Karlin, Lloyd Shapley, John Nash, Kenneth Arrow, Herbert Simon, Harry Markowitz and Robert Aumann. More details can be found at https://www.informs.org/Recognize-Excellence/INFORMS-Prizes-Awards/John-von-Neumann-Theory-Prize.

Ruth Williams is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of California, San Diego. Ruth grew up in Bendigo and was dux of Bendigo High School before going on to complete her BSc(Hons) and MSc at the University of Melbourne. She completed her PhD at Stanford University under Kai Lai Chung. Over the years she has been awarded many honours for her research including election to the US National Academy of Sciences and DSc (*honoris causa*) from La Trobe University. At present Ruth is an Honorary Senior Fellow at La Trobe University, and a member of the advisory board of the research institute MATRIX. She presented an invited lecture at the 59th Annual Meeting of the Australian Mathematical Society in 2015.

Our congratulations to Ruth!