December 2005: Congratulations to the inaugural winner of the Haya Freedman Prize at LSE

Congratulations from the Department of Mathematics go to Gabriel Rosenberg, the first winner of the Haya Freedman Prize for Best Dissertation on the <u>MSc in Applicable Mathematics</u>. More details about the prize can be viewed <u>here</u>.

Gabe's dissertation topic, supervised by Bernhard von Stengel, was 'Enumeration of All Extreme Equilibria of Bimatrix Games with Integer Pivoting and Improved Degeneracy Check', which has since been published in the CDAM Research Report Series as paper LSE-CDAM-2005-18. Gabe scored a remarkable 89% for this piece of work, the top dissertation mark. Gabe told us that, "I found Bernhard's enthusiasm for the topic and for working with students comforting and inspiring. That type of dedication to students is rare, and I think it's fitting that the award named after Dr Freedman, a teacher who was known for such qualities, is going to a student of Bernhard's."

Gabe has also asked us to reproduce here the acknowledgements from his dissertation:

"An enormous thank you is due to my advisor, Dr. Bernhard von Stengel of the Department of Mathematics at the London School of Economics, for his incredible help with this paper. The paper is a direct result of the immeasurable time he spent helping me understand the subject matter and providing insight into the problem and its solutions. My

September 2005:

Memories of Haya

We welcome in the section below contributions from colleagues and past students to offer memories of Haya. In doing so we realize that we are, indirectly, recording moments of the history of a department that is just months short of being 40 years in existence. In paying tribute to Haya one is almost involuntarily led to reflect that when we grieve the passing of a colleague, we grieve also the very passage of time, in which we are all carried.

Here is a poem on this very theme by Gerald Manley Hopkins entitled Spring and Fall. It is directed to a young child, who apparently asks why autumn unfolds.

Margaret, are you grieving Over Goldengrove unleaving? Leaves, like the things of man, you With your fresh thoughts care for, can you? Ah! as the heart grows older It will come to such sights colder By and by, nor spare a sigh Though worlds of wanwood leafmeal lie; And yet you will weep and know why. Now no matter, child, the name: Sorrow's springs are the same. Nor mouth had, no nor mind, expressed What héart héard of, ghóst guéssed: It is the blight man was born for, It is Margaret you mourn for.

HAYA FREEDMAN

I was appointed to a lectureship in mathematics at LSE a few years after the department was founded under the leadership of Cyril Offord. It was not easy at first to attract students to our new mathematics degree in sufficient numbers to make it viable, but the students who came to us really wanted to learn. Haya understood this from the beginning and taught the rest of us what such students are capable of achieving with teachers who care as deeply as she did about their subject. Now she is gone, I can tell a story that says a great deal about what kind of person she was. While I was acting as chairman during the interregnum that followed Cyril Offord's retirement. I put it to her that she deserved promotion to Senior Lecturer, but she argued determinedly to the contrary. Eventually she reluctantly agreed to her name being put forward---but only on the condition that I said nothing whatever on the subject to anyone who didn't absolutely need to know. I guess the word that describes Haya best is integrity - both personal and intellectual. The world would be a better place if more of us were able to follow her example. Ken Binmore

Emeritus Professor Department of Economics University College London

HAYA FREEDMAN

There was always something appealingly maternal about Haya. Conjoined with a disarming lack of worldliness, yet underpinned by a certain stubborness - these qualities made her the unique person she was. While her devotion to her students brought out the best in them, she was no pushover, for her apparent naivete was balanced by a shrewdness of judgment concerning her charges' abilities. I recall several occasions on which she remarked to me that student X, although highly regarded, was "not all that good". She was serious, dedicated, and kind, a mathematician and teacher hailing from what is, sadly but inevitably, a bygone age. I recall her with genuine affection.

Professor John L. Bell Department of Philosophy University of Western Ontario London, Ontario Canada N6A 3K7