

## In Memoriam – Jonathan Borwein

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### In Memoriam – Jonathan Borwein

Jonathan Michael Borwein, Laureate Professor at the University of Newcastle, NSW, Australia, passed away suddenly in the early morning hours of August 2nd, towards the end of a four-month term as Distinguished Scholar in Residence at Western University in London, Ontario.

Jonathan Borwein was born in St. Andrews, Scotland, on May 20, 1951. He moved with his parents, both academics, to London, Ontario, where he completed an Honours Mathematics degree at UWO in 1971. He received his Ph.D. in Mathematics from Oxford University (1974) as an Ontario Rhodes Scholar. Jonathan started his academic career at Dalhousie, first as a postdoctoral fellow (1974-1976), and then quickly moving through the ranks to Full Professor (1984) in what was then the Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computing Science.

With the exception of two years at Carnegie-Mellon University (1980-1982), Jonathan stayed at Dalhousie until 1991, when he moved to the University of Waterloo (1991-1993). In 1993, Dr. Borwein became the Shrum Professor of Science and founded the Centre for Experimental and Constructive Mathematics (CECM) at Simon Fraser University. He later served as a Canada Research Chair in Information Technology (2001-2004) at SFU before returning to Dalhousie as a Canada Research Chair in Distributed and Collaborative Research in the Faculty of Computer Science, with a cross-appointment in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics (2004-2009). During this time he also held an appointment as Director of the Atlantic Association for Research in the Mathematical Sciences (2005-2007).

In 2009, Jonathan and his family moved to Australia, where he accepted the position of Laureate Professor of the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences at the University of Newcastle. He also became the founding director of CARMA, a Priority Research Centre at the University of Newcastle, devoted to Computer-Assisted Research Mathematics and its Applications.

While in Australia, Jonathan maintained professional and personal connections with Dalhousie, where he still held an adjunct appointment in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Only a month before his untimely death, he and his wife Judith visited Dalhousie, where he gave a Colloquium talk on visualization in mathematics, one of his research areas.

Jonathan Borwein was an innovative and prolific mathematician of international renown. Among numerous other honours, he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (1994) and of the Australian Academy of Science (2010), and he received two honorary doctorates. He was also elected Fellow of several professional associations and won various top research awards throughout his career.

Jonathan was active in numerous administrative and editorial roles nationally (in Canada and Australia) and internationally. In particular, over several decades he held important Executive and

Committee appointments with the Canadian Mathematical Society (CMS), including CMS President (2000-2002). [A press release by the CMS states](#) that "Dr. Borwein was passionate about promoting the advancement, discovery, learning and application of mathematics at both the local, national and global levels", and "Jon was an extraordinarily productive and diverse researcher, widely recognized as one of the world's foremost practitioners of Experimental Mathematics," said CMS President Michael Bennett (UBC).

[In another scientific tribute](#), Jonathan Borwein's closest and longest-term collaborator writes, "Jon was a mentor par excellence, having guided 30 graduate students and 42 post-doctoral scholars. Working with Jon is not easy — he is a demanding colleague (as the present author will attest), but for those willing to apply themselves, the rewards have been great, as they become first-hand partners in ground-breaking work."

Jonathan Borwein is survived by his parents, Bessie and David Borwein of London; his wife Judith, three daughters Naomi, Rachel, and Tova; five grandchildren Jakob Joseph, Noah Erasmus, Skye, Zoe and Taj; siblings Sarah and Peter; sister-in-law Jennifer Moore.

The funeral will take place at Logan Funeral Home, 371 Dundas Street, London, Ontario at 1:00 pm on Wednesday August 10, with a visitation period from noon to 1:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, friends and colleagues may wish to donate to a scholarship fund being set up in Jonathan's name. For information on how to donate contact [Judith.Borwein@gmail.com](mailto:Judith.Borwein@gmail.com).