

March 24, 2009 Luncheon with Margaret Wertheim - Call for Undergraduate Participation

Margaret Wertheim will be visiting Cornell University on March 23 and 24, 2009 to deliver a public lecture and to meet with members of the Cornell community. Undergraduates are invited to submit a paragraph (of no more than 200 words) explaining why they would like to dine with Margaret Wertheim during her visit to Cornell. Based upon these submissions, eight students will be selected to attend a luncheon at the Statler Hotel at 11:30 on Tuesday, March 24. Please, email paragraphs to wertheimluncheon@gmail.com by 9:00 AM on Monday, March 16. Selected participants will be notified by Friday, March 20 and will be given details for the luncheon.

Margaret Wertheim is well known for her work as science writer and commentator. She has written several books, contributes to The New York Times Science Section, is an Op-Ed contributor to the Los Angeles Times, wrote the "Quark Soup" science column for the LA Weekly, and is contributing editor on science issues for Cabinet. Furthermore, she founded the Institute For Figuring (www.theiff.org) that is devoted to enhancing public engagement in science and mathematics through lectures, exhibitions, books, and an extensive website.

Most recently Margaret Wertheim received international acclaim for the 2007 IFF "Hyperbolic Crochet Coral Reef" project. This project originated from the published crochet instructions of a hyperbolic plane by Cornell University Professors Daina Taimina and David Henderson. Variations on this theme have resulted in a gigantic crocheted coral reef that draws attention to the effects of global warming and the fragility of the Great Barrier Reef. It has been shown at the Andy Warhol Museum (Pittsburgh, Spring 2007), The Hayward Gallery (London, Summer 2008), and museums in Chicago (Fall 2007) and at New York University (Spring 2008). While working on a shoestring budget, Margaret Wertheim has had an unparalleled impact engaging women around the world in active participation and learning about science, mathematics and environmentalism. As marine biologist Kate Holmes of the American Museum of Natural History wrote: "The crochet project takes a new and interesting twist by looking at the mathematics of coral. It's another entrance point and it allows us to involve craftspeople who might be into conservation."