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FIELDS INSTITUTE Research in Mathematical Science

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CELEBRATING WOMEN IN MATHEMATICS

LINDA GOLDWAY KEEN

1941- , USA - Graduating from the Bronx High School of Science, Goldway entered the City College of New York, earning a B.S. in 1960. Remaining in New York, she was awarded a Master's Degree by New York University in 1960, and then studied for her Ph.D. at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences at New York University.

Her doctoral supervisor was Lipman Bers who had worked at the Courant Institute for about 10 years before he began to supervise Keen. He left the Institute in 1964, the year in which Keen was awarded her Ph.D. Her research



involved studying the interplay between the analytic and geometric aspects of classifying Riemann surfaces. She described the background to this work in the Emmy Noether Lecture which she gave in 1993.

Keen was promoted to a full professor at Lehman College in 1974 and later held dual appointments in both the Mathematics and Computer Science Departments.

In the 1980s she collaborated with Caroline Series on work on Riemann surfaces which returned to ideas that she had studied for her doctoral thesis.

Keen served as President of Association for Women in Mathematics during 1985-1986. Later, during 1992-1995, she was honoured by being elected to serve as Vice-President of the American Mathematical Society. She chaired the Committee on Professional Ethics which sought to draw up guidelines for professional mathematicians on issues such as giving credit to others for their contributions, responsible refereeing of papers, and important issues involving interactions between mathematicians and governments, and mathematicians and industry.

Biography courtesy of The MacTutor History of Mathematics archive