

Rodney Baxter wins Onsager double Murray Batchelor

Emeritus Professor Rodney Baxter, from the Centre for Mathematics and its Applications in the Mathematical Sciences Institute, ANU has been honoured by two prestigious awards. The first of these is the 2006 Onsager Prize of the American Physical Society which recognizes outstanding research in theoretical statistical physics. The citation reads “For his original and groundbreaking contributions to the field of exactly solved models in statistical mechanics, which continue to inspire profound developments in statistical physics and related fields.”

His second award is the 2006 Lars Onsager Lecture and Medal from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. Professor Baxter will deliver the lecture in Trondheim on May 16. The Nobel Laureate Lars Onsager is well known for his mathematical tour de force solution of the two-dimensional Ising model, including the calculation of the magnetic order parameter. Professor Baxter received considerable



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publicity recently after he confirmed a long-standing conjecture for the order parameter of the chiral Potts model, which includes the Ising model as a special case.

“These awards are particularly pleasing for me as it is recognition of work on the order parameters of the chiral Potts model, which is research in the Lars Onsager tradition”, Professor Baxter said.