

The Honorary Graduand: Professor Nira Chamberlain

OBE

The Orator: Doctor Kevin Golden

Professor Nira Chamberlain is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science.

Professor Nira Chamberlain is a professional mathematician. In the last decade he has been recognised as the World's Most Interesting Mathematician, Science Council UK's Top 100 Scientists, Power List 5th Most Influential Black Person in the UK (2018), the first Black Mathematician to appear in the Who's Who.

Professor Chamberlain received an OBE on the 2022 New Year's Honours List for services to Mathematical Sciences.

Nira is a Visiting Professor at Loughborough University, an Honorary Professor at Warwick University, obtained a PhD from Portsmouth University (Thesis – Extension of the Gambler's Ruin Problem Played over Networks), a MSc in Industrial Mathematical Modelling from Loughborough University and a BSc(Hons) degree from Coventry Polytechnic.

Prof Chamberlain became President of the IMA on the 1st January 2020. The IMA is the UK's chartered professional body for mathematicians and one of the UK's largest learned societies for mathematics. He became the first Black President of a this mathematical learned society.

In 2023, Prof Chamberlain will become President of The Mathematical Association. Furthermore, Prof Chamberlain is also the Chair of the "Black Heroes of Mathematics" Conference.

Prof Chamberlain has over 30 years of experience at writing mathematical models/simulation algorithms to solve complex industrial problems. Prof Chamberlain developed mathematical solutions within the defence, aerospace, automotive, energy and retail industrial sectors. This has included periods of work in France, Holland, Germany and Israel. Currently, Prof Chamberlain is a Technical Fellow of Mathematical Modelling for Atkins a member of the SNC Lavalin Group

A number of years ago, Prof Chamberlain worked for Babcock International Group His proudest professional achievement was the creation of a mathematical cost capability trade-off model, for the Royal Navy's largest aircraft carriers; HMS Queen Elizabeth and the HMS Prince of Wales. At the time when the £6.2 billion project was still at the computer design stage, Prof Chamberlain's model convinced the Government that these prestigious aircraft carriers should be built.

Another hat Prof Chamberlain wear is on of a mathematic communicator, with his most popular talks being "The Black Heroes of Mathematics", "The Mathematics to stop an AI Apocalypse", "The Mathematics of the (Marvel) Black Panther" and "Saving Aston Villa!". In 2018 he won an invitational mathematics communication competition – The Big Internet Maths Off and was named – World's Most Interesting Mathematician!

Charity wise, Prof Chamberlain is a regular speaker for Robert Peston's (ITV Political Editor) charity Speakers for Schools. This charity provides leading experts to give talks at state schools. As well as

this, in the last seven years, Prof Chamberlain has been providing a 2-day Masterclass workshop in mathematics for the charity Target Oxbridge. This workshop helps A-level STEM student of African and African-Caribbean background gain entrance to Oxford and Cambridge University.