Obituary: Marialuisa J. de Resmini (1939–2012)

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Professor Marialuisa J. de Resmini, a long-time active member of the editorial board of *Designs, Codes and Cryptography* and then one of the very few honorary editors, passed away on October 12, 2012. While she was not in good health during her last few years, her death came entirely unexpectedly. We have lost a very dear friend, who was an inspiration for countless young mathematicians and influenced Finite Geometry considerably.

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Marialuisa J. de Resmini (the *J.* standing for *Joyce*, a fact not all that well-known) was born on 2nd December 1939, in Rome. She spent most of her academic career at the Università di Roma "La Sapienza", where she received her Degree in Mathematical Sciences on July 12, 1960. Her *tesi di Laurea* (this is a kind of master thesis) was on integral geometry; this led to her first publication in *Archimede* in 1961. After several years of teaching first as volontary assistant to the chair of Descriptive and Projective Geometry in the Faculty of Architecture of Rome and then as lecturer of Geometry at the University of L'Aquila, Marialuisa returned to work at "La Sapienza" in 1969, first as an assistant and lecturer, and from 1982 as Associate Professor of Algebra until her retirement in 2009. After that, she lived quietly in her apartment in Rome. Sadly, her health was deteriorating, but she still enjoyed visits and phone calls from many friends. She died in hospital in Frascati on October 12, 2012, and the funeral ceremony took place in Frascati at the Chiesa di S. Bonaventura on October 16, 2012.

Marialuisa published close to seventy research papers between 1961 and 2008. Although she wrote a paper on quartic curves presented at the conference on Combinatorial Geometry in Perugia in 1970, her consistent work began in 1980, with the Combinatorial Geometry Seminar at "La Sapienza" providing a great stimulus. Her work was subsequently all concerned with finite mathematics. The papers ranged over the areas of finite planes, both Desarguesian and non-Desarguesian, block designs, the combinatorics of three-dimensional spaces, and algebraic curves. She liked to help her colleagues to improve their proficiency in English and could always find time to read the draft of their papers and give suggestions. She also acted as co-organiser of the "Seminario di Geometria combinatoria" of La Sapienza from 2000–2005, of the four Pythagorean Conferences on Geometry, Combinatorial Designs & Cryptology (Spetses 1996, Samos 1999, Rhodos 2003, Corfu 2010), and was a Visiting Professor both in Gent (Belgium) and Perth (Australia).

Marialuisa put a huge amount of energy into teaching and dealing with her students, always being willing to help and advise, even in non-academic matters. Thus she was much loved by them, and a group of her former students organised a retirement conference for her in September, 2009. Her colleagues were happy to contribute in organising a special volume of *Rendiconti di Matematica* in her honour, which appeared in 2010 (Series 7, Volume **30**). A memorial website for her was set up soon after her death:

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\url{http://www.mjdr.org/}
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where one can find the first volume of her *Appunti di Algebra*, which was texed by her students.

We are sure that Marialuisa's scientific and personal legacy will stay alive for many years to come, and that she will always be fondly remembered by her many friends and students. We all deeply miss her.

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