Department of Mathematics, Temple University
Special Colloquium

L. Nick Trefethen FRS

Professor of Numerical Analysis,

Oxford University, President of SIAM

will speak on
FOUR BUGS ON A RECTANGLE

ABSTRACT: Suppose four bugs at the corners of a 2-by-1 rectangle start chasing each other at speed 1. Bug 1 chases bug 2, bug 2 chases bug 3, and so on. What happens next will surprise you. As we follow the bugs to their eventual collision at the center, we will encounter the biggest numbers you've probably ever seen and confront some fundamental questions about what it means to try to understand our world through mathematics.

Wednesday, December 5, 2012, at 4:00pm.
Coffee, tea, and refreshments from 3:30pm Room 617,
Wachman Hall