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Dear Readers

Welcome to the final issue of *Parabola* for 2007. The focus of this issue is on practical applications of mathematics.

In his History of Mathematics article, Michael Deakin describes the powerful method of dimensionless analysis for deducing relationships between physical quantities.

I have included two articles on mathematical modelling, one on modelling the ageing population and a second on modelling global warming. The models that I have described are introductory models at a level that should be accessible to senior high school students and their teachers.

The article by Greg Doherty explains the mathematical algorithm that drives powerful search engines like Google.

Our resident Problems Editor, Thanh Tran, has returned to provide a nice set of problems to keep us busy over the summer.

Please send us a note if you have any comments about the articles, or solutions to the problems, or articles or solutions of your own.

B.I. Henry
Editor