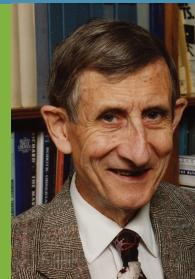


The American Mathematical Society and the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences present

The AMS Einstein Public Lecture in Mathematics

Freeman Dyson Birds and Frogs



Freeman Dyson
Professor Emeritus
Institute for Advanced Study

Saturday, October 4

6:00 p.m.

University of British Columbia

Woodward (Instructional Resources Centre)

Room 2

Some mathematicians are birds, others are frogs. Birds fly high in the air and survey broad vistas of mathematics out to the far horizon. They delight in concepts that unify our thinking and bring together diverse problems from different parts of the landscape. Frogs live in the mud below and see only the flowers that grow nearby. They delight in the details of particular objects, and they solve problems one at a time. I happen to be frog, but many of my best friends are birds. The main theme of the talk is this: mathematics needs both birds and frogs. Mathematics is rich and beautiful because birds give it broad visions and frogs give it intricate details. Mathematics is both great art and important science, because it combines generality of concepts with depth of structures. It makes no sense to claim that birds are better than frogs because they see farther, or that frogs are better than birds because they see deeper. The world of mathematics is both broad and deep, and we need birds and frogs working together to explore it.

Sponsored by the American Mathematical Society and the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences.

Hosted by the Department of Mathematics at the University of British Columbia and the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences.

This event is part of the AMS 2008 Fall Western Sectional Meeting, October 4–5.



www.ams.org/meetings/einstein-lect.html