

For Immediate Release

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Math Institute to Dedicate Its Spectacular New Hall

BERKELEY, Calif.— The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute will open Chern Hall, a remarkable addition to its headquarters built specifically to foster advancement and understanding of math, at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 3, 2006.

“Shiing-Shen Chern Hall combines light, form, function, and design to create the best possible environment for research,” said David Eisenbud, director of MSRI. “We are extremely proud to be able to offer this unique building to the mathematics community.”

Centerpiece of the \$10.5 million newly enlarged and renovated hall is Simons Auditorium, specially designed to accommodate lectures, workshops, classes, and even concerts. It features a 24- by 14-foot display area, different seating configurations for large and small gatherings, wireless computer network, excellent acoustics, and a sweeping view. The new hall also greatly expands MSRI’s library and includes meeting rooms and a lounge where visiting mathematicians can contemplate while overlooking the Bay and its bridges.

Featured speakers at the dedication of the hall include UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Birgeneau, MSRI founding directors I.M. Singer and Calvin Moore, and MSRI Chairman Donald Saari.

The new hall was designed by architect William R. Glass of Glass Associates in Oakland. “This building is very special,” said Glass. “Mathematics at this level is about communication between and among colleagues. Everything about the design is intended to facilitate that goal.”

Major donors for the project include James Simons, William R. Hearst III and the William Randolph Hearst Foundations, Edward Baker III, The Kresge Foundation, Elwyn Berlekamp, Roger Strauch, and many others.

MSRI is one of the world’s premiere centers for research in the mathematical sciences, and has been advancing mathematical research through workshops and conferences since its founding in 1982. More than 1700 mathematical scientists visit MSRI each year.

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