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Math Institute to Host World-Renowned Figure *Sir Roger Penrose makes public address in honor of Chern Hall opening*

BERKELEY, Calif.— The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) will host Sir Roger Penrose for a public address on "Fashion, Faith and Fantasy in Modern Physical Theory," in honor of the opening of MSRI's Chern Hall. The event will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 5, 2006 at Wheeler Auditorium in Wheeler Hall on the UC Berkeley campus.

“It is an honor to host a world-renowned figure in science and mathematics in honor of the opening of Chern Hall,” said David Eisenbud, director of MSRI. “We are extremely proud to celebrate the new addition to our headquarters with someone who has discovered secrets of the sky we gaze at from our courtyard.”

Sir Roger Penrose has made many significant contributions to general relativity theory including the understanding of black holes and the big bang, and to foundations of quantum theory and the classical equations of mathematical physics. He has won numerous international awards, including the Dannie Heinemann Prize (1971), Eddington Medal, Royal Society's Royal Medal, Wolf Foundation Prize for Physics, the Dirac Medal and Prize, the Einstein Medal, the Naylor Prize and DeMorgan Medal, the Arnaldi Medal, and the Dalton Medal in 2005.

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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