



2007 - 2008
MATHEMATICS & PHYSICS
DISTINGUISHED LECTURER SERIES
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA



Lecture 1 (Math. Colloquium)

Professor Kerson Huang
Department of Physics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Will speak on

Pure Mathematics and the Real World

Abstract: Pure mathematics stands supreme among creations of the human mind, but does it have direct manifestations in the real world? This question will be explored with examples from the classic works of Riemann, Hardy, and Ramanujan on number theory. The unintended and the unexpected impact on current topics in Physics like Bose-Einstein condensation, string theory and cosmology will be discussed.

DATE: Thursday, April 10, 2008

TIME: 10:30 – 11:30am

PLACE: MAP 318

LECTURE 2 (Physics Seminar)

Professor Kerson Huang

will speak on

Protein Folding as a Problem in Physics

Abstract: One of the great-unsolved problems in molecular biology is how a protein folds. From a physical point of view, the problem is that of a long-chain molecule performing Brownian motion in water. To make a working model, however, one needs to exercise judgment to distill the important degrees of freedom and interactions, and ignore irrelevant details. After giving some background on protein structure and Brownian motion the model called CSAW (conditioned self-avoiding walk) will be discussed.

DATE: Friday, April 11, 2008

TIME: 1:30 – 2:30pm

PLACE: MAP 233