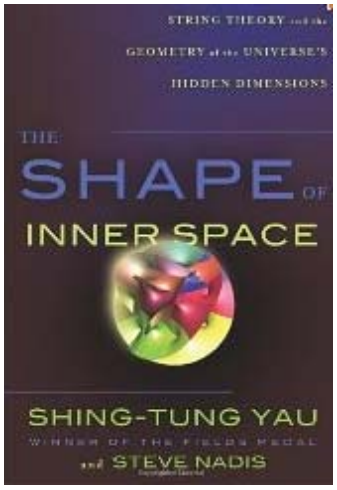
Confucius Institute at Maryland

Presents

SHING-TUNG YAU

丘成桐

(Qiu Chengtong)



THE SHAPE OF INNER SPACE:

String Theory and the Geometry of the Universe's Hidden Dimensions

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2010

1:00 – 1:50 p.m. Lecture (in English). Physics, Room 1412
2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Book Signing & Reception. Physics, Room 1303
Address: Physics Building, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2010

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Lecture (in Chinese). Hope Chinese School, Rockville.
"Chinese Literature and Mathematics"
Address: Winston Churchill High School, 11300 Gainsborough Rd, Potomac, MD 20854

Dr. YAU Shing-tung, as he is known in his native Cantonese, or **QIU Chengtong** in Mandarin, is a Chinese American mathematician working in differential geometry. A professor of mathematics at Harvard since 1987, Yau has had a huge impact on the interface of physics and mathematics. String theory – meant to reconcile the incompatibility of our two most successful theories of physics, which are general relativity and quantum mechanics – holds that the particles and forces of nature are the result of the vibrations of tiny "strings." We live in a universe of 10 dimensions, four of which we can experience, and six that are curled up in elaborate, twisted shapes called Calabi-Yau manifolds. The geometry of these miniscule spaces may hold the key to the most important physical phenomenon we know about. String theory is considered a viable candidate for a unified concept of nature. Yau is the winner of extraordinary honors: the Fields Medal, the National Medal of Science, the Crafoord, Veblen, and Wolf Prizes. Yau has written and edited more than 20 books.

Sponsored by the Confucius Institute and the Department of Physics, University of Maryland
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