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
“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.

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