Early in his working life, James Simons was demoted from stock boy to floor sweeper. This actually turned out to be a good thing because sweeping gave him more time to think about mathematics. After receiving his PhD in mathematics, chairing a department, and working in cryptanalysis, he founded the financial firm Renaissance Technologies in 1978 and eventually made 100% of the company’s investment decisions based on mathematical models, which also turned out to be a good thing as he is one of the 100 richest people in the world. Simons is now a philanthropist who supports basic research through the foundation that he and his wife, Marilyn, created. In this lecture, Simons will ruminate on the three intertwining subjects of his careers: mathematics, finance, and philanthropy.

The Einstein Lecture is part of the Fall 2014 AMS Western Sectional Meeting (Oct. 25–26) at SFSU.

For more information:
www.ams.org/meetings/sectional/2214_events.html
And:
www.ams.org/meetings/sectional/2214_program.html

This event is also part of the Bay Area Science Festival.