Langlands Receives Nemmers Prize

ROBERT P. LANGLANDS has received the 2006 Frederic Esser Nemmers Prize in Mathematics from Northwestern University. Awarded to scholars who made major contributions to new knowledge or the development of significant new modes of analysis, the Nemmers Prize carries a US$150,000 stipend.

Langlands, Hermann Weyl Professor of Mathematics at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, has been awarded the Nemmers Prize for his "fundamental vision connecting representation theory, automorphic forms, and number theory". In connection with the award, Langlands will deliver public lectures and participate in other scholarly activities at Northwestern during the fall of 2007.

Langlands is best known for the fundamental research program that bears his name. "This program postulates a deep relationship between two different areas of mathematics, number theory, and automorphic forms, via a study of their symmetries," said Kari Vilonen, professor of mathematics at Northwestern. "Since its initiation about forty years ago, the Langlands program has served as a unifying principle in mathematics and has guided research in number theory, automorphic forms, and representation theory," Vilonen said. "Recently, it also has entered mathematical physics. It remains a research program for the future in all these areas."

Langlands has received numerous distinguished awards, including the AMS Steele Prize for a Seminal Contribution to Research (2005), the Grande Medaille d'Or de l'Académie de Sciences de Paris (2000), the Wolf Prize in Mathematics (1995–96), the National Academy of Sciences Award in Mathematics (1988), and the AMS Cole Prize (1982). He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The Nemmers Prizes are made possible through bequests from the late Erwin E. Nemmers, a former member of the Northwestern University faculty, and his brother the late Frederic E. Nemmers, both of Milwaukee. The prizes are awarded every other year. Previous recipients have been Robert J. Aumann (1998) in economics, and, in mathematics, Yuri I. Manin (1994), Joseph B. Keller (1996), John H. Conway (1998), Edward Witten (2000), Yakov G. Sinai (2002), and Mikhael Gromov (2004).

Robert P. Langlands

Erwin Esser Nemmers, who persuaded his brother to join him in making a substantial contribution to Northwestern, served as a member of the faculty of the Kellogg School of Management from 1957 until his retirement in 1986. Along with his brother, Frederic E. Nemmers, he was a principal in a Milwaukee-based, family-owned church music publishing house. Their gifts, totaling US$14 million, were designated for two purposes: the establishment of four endowed professorships in the Kellogg School of Management and the establishment of the Nemmers Prizes.

Lars Hansen, the Homer J. Livingston Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago, was awarded the 2006 Erwin Plein Nemmers Prize in Economics.

—From a Northwestern University news release