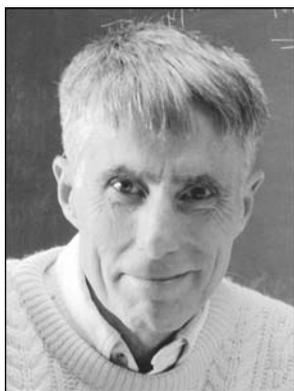


# 2008 Award for Distinguished Public Service



**Herbert Clemens**

The 2008 Award for Distinguished Public Service was presented at the 114th Annual Meeting of the AMS in San Diego in January 2008.

The Award for Distinguished Public Service is presented every two years to a research mathematician who has made a distinguished contribution to the mathematics profession during the preceding five years. The purpose of the award is to encourage and recognize those individuals who contribute their time to public service activities in support of mathematics. The award carries a cash prize of US\$4,000.

The Award for Distinguished Public Service is made by the AMS Council acting on the recommendation of a selection committee. For the 2008 award the members of the selection committee were: William J. Lewis, Carolyn R. Mahoney, Paul J. Sally (chair), Richard A. Tapia, and Margaret H. Wright.

Previous recipients of the award are: Kenneth M. Hoffman (1990), Harvey B. Keynes (1992), I. M. Singer (1993), D. J. Lewis (1995), Kenneth C. Millett (1998), Paul J. Sally Jr. (2000), Margaret H. Wright (2002), Richard A. Tapia (2004), and Roger Howe (2006).

The 2008 Award for Distinguished Public Service was presented to HERBERT CLEMENS. The text that follows presents the selection committee's citation, a brief biographical sketch, and the recipient's response upon receiving the award.

## **Citation**

The American Mathematical Society's Distinguished Public Service Award for 2008 is awarded to Herbert Clemens for his superb research in complex algebraic geometry, for his continuing efforts in education, beginning with his days at Columbia University and his work with teachers in Chile to his teaching and collaborating with teachers in the Salt Lake City public schools and his influence in mathematics education at the national level; and, in addition, for his seminal role in the founding

and continuation of the Park City/IAS Mathematics Institute.

## **Biographical Sketch**

Herbert Clemens earned his Ph.D. in 1966 from the University of California, Berkeley, under the direction of Phillip A. Griffiths. He has taught at Columbia University, the University of Utah, and the Ohio State University, where he has been on the faculty since 2002. He has served as director of the NSF Regional Geometry Institute, Park City, UT, and chair of the Steering Committee for the IAS Park City Mathematics Institute. He was an invited speaker at the International Congress of Mathematicians in 1974 and in 1986. His academic honors include a Silver Medal from the Italian Mathematical Society and a Laurea de honoris causa from the Università di Torino, among others. His research area is complex geometry.

## **Response**

I feel very honored to receive the 2008 Award for Distinguished Public Service from the American Mathematical Society and regret that I am unable to be present in person to receive the award. I accept the award in the name of the hundreds of AMS members engaged in professional outreach, which, though often viewed to lie at the margins of our calling as mathematicians, is vital to the long-term sustainability of our discipline, especially as pertains to the discipline's continued support by society at large.

More particularly and currently, I accept this award as recognizing the more than forty AMS members offering their services for university lecturing in Cambodia, as recognizing an equivalent number working with African mathematicians through the International Mathematical Union, and finally as recognizing the countless AMS members currently working in cooperation with the education community to improve pre-university mathematics education in our country's schools.