Baylor Undergraduate Lecture Series in Mathematics

Eighth Annual Lectures

Happy Birthday Fermat's Last Theorem

Monday, October 19, 2015 • 4:00 p.m.
Marrs McLean Science Building MMSCI 101

Simon Singh celebrates the fact that it has been exactly twenty years since a proof of Fermat's Last Theorem was published. He will discuss the origin of the world's most notorious mathematical problem, describe the heroes and villains who tried and failed to prove Fermat's Last Theorem, and tell the story of Professor Andrew Wiles, who conquered Fermat's challenge after working in secret for seven years. Along the way, Simon will explain how he turned this mathematical conundrum into a best-selling book (Fermat's Enigma) and an award-winning documentary aired as part of the PBS Nova series (The Proof).

The Simpsons and Their Mathematical Secrets

Monday, October 19, 2015 • 6:00 p.m.
Marrs McLean Science Building MMSCI 101

Simon Singh, author of Fermat's Enigma, The Code Book and Big Bang, talks about his latest book, which explores mathematical themes hidden in The Simpsons. Everyone knows that The Simpsons is the most successful show in television history, but very few people realize that its team of mathematically gifted writers have used the show to explore everything from calculus to geometry, from pi to game theory, and from infinitesimals to infinity. Singh will also discuss how writers of Futurama have similarly made it their missions to smuggle deep mathematical ideas into the series.

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES