



Professor Vaughan Jones

University of California, Berkeley

1990 Fields Medal Winner

Member, National Academy of Sciences

Second Annual

Baylor Lecture Series in Mathematics

Wednesday, September 24, 2008 • 3:30 p.m.

Baylor Science Building – D109

Baylor University

Waco, Texas

Flatland: A Great Place to Do Algebra

We will explain a new kind of algebra, based on pictures in the plane, that would have gladdened the heart of Edwin A. Abbott, the author of “Flatland”, a book we will use as a starting point for the talk. We will see how this algebra appears in various guises, from knot theory to statistical mechanics and quantum computation. The talk will be enriched by various anecdotes.

BAYLOR
UNIVERSITY