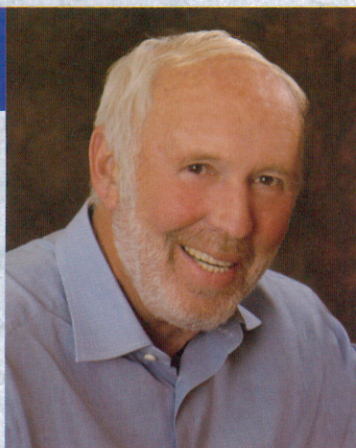


# SEOUL ICM 2014

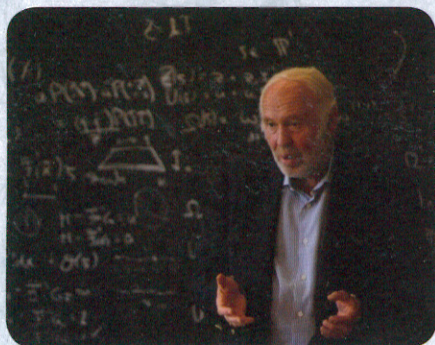
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MATHEMATICIANS

August 13-21, 2014 | Coex, Seoul, Korea



## PUBLIC LECTURE 1

**Speaker** | James H. Simons  
**Date & Time** | 20:00 - 21:30 August 13, 2014  
**Location** | 3F Hall D, Coex



## My Life in Mathematics

**James H. Simons**

The organizing committee of SEOUL ICM2014 will host a special public lecture given by Dr. James H. Simons at 8 p.m. on August 13th at Hall D, 3F of Coex convention center.

Dr. James Harris Simons is a mathematician, hedge fund manager and philanthropist. He received a B.S. degree in mathematics from MIT in 1958 and a Ph.D. degree in mathematics from UC Berkeley in 1961, at the age of 23. He had been teaching at MIT and Harvard before joining to work for National Security Agency and Institute for Defense Analyses in 1964.

In 1968, he moved to SUNY Stony Brook as the chairman of mathematics department. With his efforts, the department has been upgraded to one of the leading mathematics departments in the United States.

Dr. Simons was an extremely successful mathematician specializing in differential geometry and topology. In 1974, in a joint work with Shiing-Shen Chern, a legend in differential geometry, Dr. Simons made a major breakthrough in 3-dimensional topological quantum field theory by giving a concrete construction of a special differential form. Their contribution is now called the Chern-Simons theory. In 1976, he won the Oswald Veblen Prize, the highest honor in geometry.

In 1982, Dr. Simons founded Renaissance Technologies, a hedge fund company. He employed mathematical model to analyze and execute the trades in market around the world. The Renaissance Technologies employs many specialists in mathematics, physics, signal processing and statistics, which can be attributed to its great success. He is regarded as one of the most successful mathematicians and businessmen. With an estimated net worth of 12.5 billion dollars, he is ranked 93rd richest person in the world by *Forbes* in 2013, ahead of Eric Schmidt of Google.

Dr. Simons is a passionate philanthropist. In 1994, he and his wife Marilyn Simons co-founded the Simons Foundation to support scientific research, education and health. Also, he makes a large donation to Nepalese healthcare through the Nick Simons Institute, a memorial institute for his son Nick Simons who was working in Nepal. Recently, he set up another foundation 'Math for America' to promote math teaching in public schools.

In a recent interview with New York Times, he said,  
"I wasn't the fastest guy in the world. I wouldn't have done well in an Olympiad or a math contest. But I liked to ponder. And pondering things, just sort of thinking about it and thinking about it, turns out to be a pretty good approach."