

CREATIVE MINDS CHARMED LIVES

Interviews at
Institute for Mathematical Sciences
National University of Singapore

This book features interviews of **38 eminent mathematicians** and **mathematical scientists** who participated in the programs of the Institute for Mathematical Sciences, National University of Singapore. Learn about their backgrounds, careers, inspirations, aspirations, achievements and fierce passion driving their creative minds in research in pure and applied mathematics, statistics, economics and engineering.

by

Yu Kiang Leong
National University of Singapore

Excerpts from the book



“I think what one really wants is imagination above rigor. And then you go to your friends who are mathematicians and check to see if your imagination and intuition took you in the right direction.”

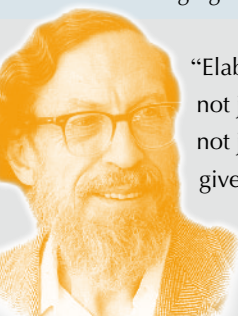
Lawrence Klein
1980 Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences

“Actually when I first told my colleagues from academia that I was leaving academia to go to Microsoft, everyone of them thought I was crazy. Now many of them think that I am very lucky, but at that time almost all of them thought I was crazy because they didn't believe that I could continue to do fundamental research.”



Jennifer Tour Chayes

Managing Director, Microsoft Research New England



“Elaborate models can give an impression of providing results that are in fact not justified whereas with simpler models, it is more apparent if the results are not justified. The elaborate models are like black boxes which are supposed to give you the answers. And you do not know if anything goes wrong.”

Charles Stein
Emeritus Professor of Statistics, Stanford University

“At that time, I didn't think we would have the human genome sequence by the year 2000. I knew there was going to be great progress, but things happened that I didn't expect.”



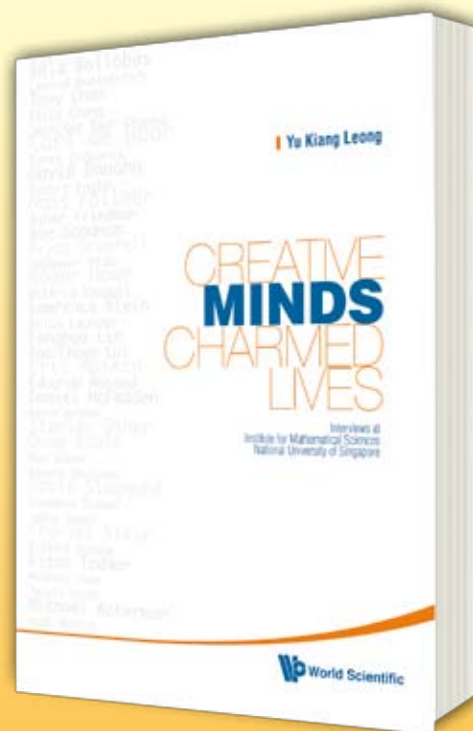
Michael S. Waterman

Founding Father of Computational Biology



“[A]t a banquet ... one person said that [I] was a probabilist, another said that [I] was a statistician, another said [I] worked in applied probability. But Kolmogorov said, ‘We are mathematicians, and if you are a good mathematician, you should be able to solve any problem — theoretical problems, applied problems and so on’.”

Albert Nikolaevich Shiryaev
Distinguished Professor, Moscow State University



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