Colloquium

Terrence Adams

The Mathematical Legacy of Nathaniel Friedman (Special Colloquium)

Friday, October 11, 2024
3:00 p.m. in Massry BB-012
(tea & coffee at 2:45 p.m.)

Abstract. Nat Friedman was a professor of mathematics at the University at Albany. He had many passions in life: besides mathematics, he played baseball at the University of Michigan, was a recognized sculptor, and was an avid ballroom dancer. This talk will focus on Nat's career as a mathematician, from his early days collaborating with Donald Ornstein to his exploration of various types of mixing. Nat and his coauthors were among the first to identify systems within the following classes: zero entropy mixing; partially mixing, partially rigid systems and lightly mixing systems. Also, we'll talk about recent results that build on Nat's methodology to answer open questions related to slow entropy and mixing sequences for weak mixing systems.