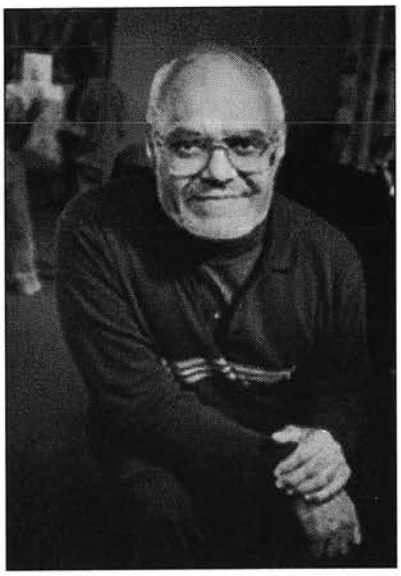
Robert Moses Receives Heinz Award



Robert Moses

ROBERT MOSES has received the Heinz Award in the Human Condition from the Heinz Family Foundation. This award, consisting of a medallion and $250,000, honors individuals who have developed and implemented significant new programs to improve the human condition. Moses received the award for creating the Algebra Project, an innovative curriculum for teaching algebra to middle school students.

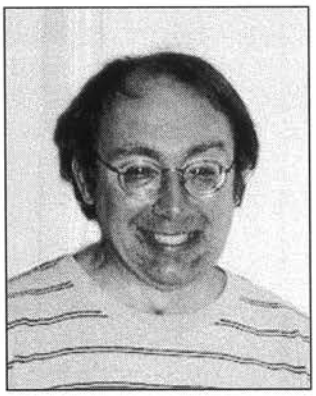
Born in 1935 in New York City, Moses attended Stuyvesant High School and received a bachelor's degree from Hamilton College in 1956. The following year he received a master's degree in philosophy from Harvard University. When his mother died, Moses had to leave graduate school and began teaching mathematics at a private school in New York. During the 1960s he was a field organizer with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and spent four years in the South working in the civil rights movement.

After teaching mathematics in Tanzania for eight years, Moses settled in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The concept for the Algebra Project was born in the 1970s when his eldest daughter was receiving mathematics instruction he felt was inadequate to prepare her for her future. A doctoral student at Harvard at the time, Moses made the decision to give up his studies and to concentrate instead on developing his own approach to mathematics instruction. What emerged has become the Algebra Project, an innovative curriculum for middle school in which students use real-life experiences as a basis for understanding mathematical concepts. The Algebra Project builds local networks of students, parents, teachers, administrators, community activitists, and professionals into policy groups that take responsibility and ownership for implementing the project in their neighborhoods. The Algebra Project currently reaches nearly 40,000 middle school students in thirteen states. In 1982 Moses received a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in recognition of his work on the Algebra Project.

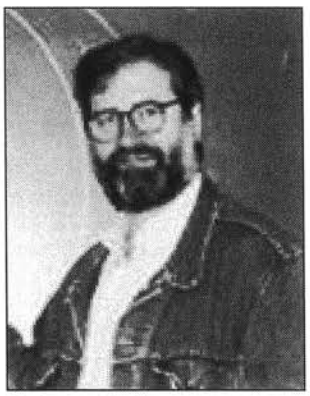
The Heinz Awards were established by Teresa Heinz in 1992 in honor of her late husband, H. John Heinz III. Administered by the Heinz Family Foundation, the Heinz Awards celebrate the accomplishments and spirit of John Heinz by recognizing outstanding leaders in the areas in which he was most active. The awards recognize individuals for their contributions in five areas: Arts and Humanities; the Environment; the Human Condition; Public Policy; and Technology, the Economy, and Employment. Award nominations are submitted by an anonymous Council of Nominators and reviewed by jurors appointed by the Foundation. Award recipients are selected by the Board of Directors of the Heinz Awards upon review of the jurors' recommendations.

—Allyn Jackson

Beilinson and Hofer Share Ostrowski Prize



Alexander Beilinson



Helmut Hofer

ALEXANDER BEILINSON of the University of Chicago and HELMUT HOFER of the Courant Institute shared the 1999 Ostrowski Prize. The prize carries a monetary award of 150,000 Swiss francs (approximately $87,000) and two fellowships each of 30,000 Swiss francs.

Beilinson received the Ostrowski Prize for achievements in the areas of representation theory, arithmetic geometry, and modern mathematical physics. His proof with J. Bernstein of the Jantzen conjectures for reductive Lie groups involved the earlier development of $\mathcal{D}$-modules and perverse sheaves in which he also played a key role. His conjectures and computations in K-theory continue to be very influential, as for example in his motivic treatment of D. Zagier's polylogarithm conjectures in joint work with P. Deligne. And Beilinson's total rebuilding of the theory of vertex operator algebras with V. Drinfeld contributes to the understanding of two-dimensional conformal field theory and string theory and has furthermore led to progress in the geometric Langlands program.

Hofer received the Ostrowski Prize for several contributions to contact and symplectic geometry. His proof of the Weinstein conjecture for a wide and significant class of 3-manifolds was not only a breakthrough but also set in motion an extensive research program carried through by him in collaboration with Y. Eliashberg, K. Wysocki, E. Zehnder, and others. Landmarks include the characterization of the 3-ball and the 3-sphere in dynamical terms, as well as a theorem about closed characteristics on strictly convex hypersurfaces in symplectic 4-space.

The Ostrowski Foundation was created by Alexander Ostrowski, for many years a professor at the University of Basel. He left his entire estate to the foundation and stipulated that the income should provide a prize for outstanding recent achievements in pure mathematics and the foundations of numerical mathematics. The prize is awarded every other year. Previous recipients of the Ostrowski Prize are Louis de Branges, Jean Bourgain, Miklós Laczkovich, Marina Ratner, Andrew Wiles, Yuri Nesterenko, and Gilles Pisier. The prize jury consists of representatives from the universities of Basel, Jerusalem, and Waterloo, and from the academies of Denmark and the Netherlands.

The 1999 prize was awarded on June 9, 2000, at the University of Basel.

—From an Ostrowski Foundation news release