



Monday, October 22, 2001

OU to host lecture on 'Paradoxes of Randomness'

Gregory Chaitin of the IBM Watson Research Center in New York will discuss "Paradoxes of Randomness" Thursday, Oct. 25, at 3 p.m. in 201 Dodge Hall as part of the Hammerle Lecture series.

This is the 14th annual Hammerle Lecture, which is named in honor of the late William G. Hammerle, founding professor of engineering at Oakland University. The series brings lecturers to Oakland who reflect Hammerle's creative approaches to solving challenging problems.

"Sometimes mathematical truth is completely random and has no structure or pattern that we will ever be able to understand," said Chaitin. "It is not the case that simple clear questions have simple clear answers."

Chaitin was in his teens when he created algorithmic information theory (AIT), which combines, among other elements, Shannon's information theory and Turing's theory of computability. Most recently, Chaitin's achievement was to transform AIT into a theory approximately the size of executable computer programs.

SUMMARY

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