

Draft Release

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Mr. William R. Hearst III Announces Generous Gift For Dramatic Expansion At Nation's Leading Institute For Mathematical Research

Dr. David Eisenbud, Director of Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI), and Mr. William R. Hearst III, MSRI Trustee and Chairman of the MSRI Archimedes Society, announced today new plans for the MSRI library, the completion of the building's funding, and its new name: Austine McDonnell Hearst Library. "My personal love for both mathematics and libraries motivates me to support this project," Mr. Hearst stated "The work of the researchers who will use the Hearst library for decades to come will help make great strides in the problems faced by science and technology."

The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, located in Berkeley, California, is the leading center in the nation focusing exclusively on research in the mathematical sciences and is one of the leading mathematics centers in the world. 1,700 researchers each year come to the Institute to participate in programs and workshops on pressing mathematical problems in academic research and industry. MSRI fosters mathematical research at the highest level by bringing together foremost mathematical scientists from around the world in an environment that promotes creative and effective collaboration

The MSRI library is being named in memory of Austine McDonnell Hearst by her son, William Hearst III and his wife Margaret Hearst. Austine Byrne McDonnell Hearst was born in Newtown, Massachusetts, and lived in Virginia before moving to the Bay Area to join her husband, William R. Hearst, Jr. In her life Austine became known for her sincere commitment to learning and books, encouraging her children to push the limits of their experience. William Hearst III is a graduate of Harvard University with a major in mathematics.

The current MSRI Library has a collection of over twelve thousand books and twenty thousand journal volumes in the mathematical sciences. There are computers available for consultation of online materials as well as connections for laptops. From the beginning, the vitality and strength of the library has owed a great deal to generous donations from mathematicians and lovers of mathematics. It also has maintained a strong acquisitions program designed to meet the needs to the constantly changing MSRI population

However, the original library long ago outgrew its original shelf space, adding tens of linear feet of texts each year to its collection. As a result it is literally filled to the ceiling, and is stretched far beyond its space constraints.

"With this new expansion, the library will reclaim its pleasant original atmosphere, with ample study areas and a media room," offered MSRI Executive Director David Eisenbud. "Once again we will have the opportunity to properly acquire and present the proper cross-section of the enormous mathematical literature published each year. With Will Hearst's gift, the \$1.38 million in funding needed for the library is now complete."

The current MSRI Library contains 2,300 linear feet of book shelving space. While the early plans for the library called for an expansion to 4,739 linear feet, Mr. Hearst led the \$1.38 million effort to expand the library's capacity yet further to 7,469 linear feet (an over three-fold expansion). Space will also be added for on-line viewing by researchers of the Institute's massive collection of research level mathematics lectures. The Austine McDonnell Hearst Library will also have a social dimension, serving as the space for talks by authors of new books and for other similar events.

The library expansion and renovation is a part of a \$7.3 million campaign at MSRI for capital improvements.

About MSRI (www.msri.org)

MSRI's research programs extend through pure mathematics into computer science, statistics, and applications to other disciplines, including engineering, physics, biology, chemistry, medicine and finance. Primarily supported by the US National Science Foundation, the Institute is an independent non-profit corporation that enjoys academic affiliation with seventy-one leading Universities, including the University of California, Berkeley, and other government and private organizations. MSRI's major programs, postdoctoral training program, and workshops draw together more than 1,700 of the strongest mathematical scientists each year. At any time about 85 scientists are in residence for visits ranging up to one-year. Public outreach programs, and the largest mathematical streaming video archive in the world, ensure that many others interact with MSRI throughout the year.