

TAKING THE LONG VIEW

The Life of Shiing-shen Chern

山長水遠

陳省身的一生

A film by
George Csicsery

“He created a branch of mathematics which now unites all the major branches of mathematics with rich structure—which is still developing today.”

—C. N. Yang



Shiing-shen Chern (1911–2004)

Taking the Long View examines the life of a remarkable mathematician whose classical Chinese philosophical ideas helped him build bridges between China and the West. Shiing-shen Chern (1911-2004) is one of the fathers of modern differential geometry. His work at the Institute for Advanced Study and in China during and after World War II led to his teaching at the University of Chicago in 1949. Next came Berkeley, where he created a world-renowned center of geometry, and in 1981 cofounded the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute. During the 1980s he brought talented Chinese scholars to the United States and Europe. By 1986, with Chinese government support, he established a math institute at Nankai University in Tianjin. Today it is called the Chern Institute of Mathematics.



Taking the Long View was produced by the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute with support from Simons Foundation. Directed by George Csicsery. With the participation of (in order of appearance) C.N. Yang, Hung-Hsi Wu, Bertram Kostant, James H. Simons, Shiing-shen Chern, Calvin Moore, Phillip Griffiths, Robert L. Bryant, May Chu, Yiming Long, Molin Ge, Udo Simon, Karin Reich, Wentsun Wu, Robert Osserman, Isadore M. Singer, Chuu-Lian Terng, Alan Weinstein, Guoding Hu, Paul Chern, Rob Kirby, Weiping Zhang, Robert Uomini, Friedrich Hirzebruch, Zixin Hou, Gang Tian, Lei Fu, Deling Hu and others. Edited by Tal Skloot. Music by Richard Chon. A production of the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute and Zala Films.

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Shiing-shen Chern

TAKING THE LONG VIEW

The Life of Shiing-shen Chern

山長水遠

陳省身的一生

The story of a remarkable mathematician who built bridges between China and the West, and founded mathematical institutes in two countries



Elie Cartan



C. N. Yang



Chuu-Lian Terng



Calvin C. Moore



Bertram Kostant



Hung-Hsi Wu



Robert Bryant

35 Minutes of Extra Features on the DVD include:

- Chern and the Gauss-Bonnet Theorem
- Moving Frames
- Chern Classes
- Chern-Simons Invariant
- Affine Geometry
- The Chern Stone at Nankai

DVD

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