Von Neumann Symposium on
Complex Geometry, Calibrations,
and Special Holonomy

August 11-20, 2003, Berkeley, California

Organized by: Robert Bryant (co-chair), Simon Donaldson,
H. Blaine Lawson, Richard Schoen, and Gang Tian (co-chair)

The focus of the symposium will be on an introduction to the subjects of the title, i.e., ideas and tools being developed in differential geometry in response to the challenges posed in modern mathematical physics, particularly string theory. The symposium will present reviews of current mathematical developments including many special talks appropriate for non-experts (especially students and postdoctorals). These will take the form of interrelated minicourses supplemented by individual up-to-date research lectures.

The four mini-course topics and speakers are:

Zhiguo Liu, University of California Irvine: Complex Geometry
Blaine Lawson, SUNY Stony Brook: Calibrations and Calibrated Cycles
Robert Bryant, Duke University: Special Holonomy
Richard Thomas, Imperial College: Gauge Theory

This symposium is co-sponsored by the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute.

How to Apply to Participate
The participation of qualified women, underrepresented minorities, and junior scientists (advanced graduate students and recent Ph.D.s) is especially encouraged. All persons who are interested in participating should submit the following information to AMS Symposium Coordinator, American Mathematical Society, P.O. Box 6248, Providence, RI 02940, or by email to wsd@ams.org no later than April 1, 2003. Please type or print the following:

1. Full name and mailing address.
2. Phone numbers (including area code) for office, home, and fax.
3. Email address.
4. Your anticipated arrival/departure dates.
5. Scientific background relevant to the symposium topics; please indicate if you are a student or if you received your Ph.D. on or after 7/1/96.
6. The amount of financial assistance requested (or indicate if no support is required).

All requests will be forwarded to the organizing committee for consideration. Letters of invitation with specific offers of support (if applicable) will be mailed in early May, along with a brochure of information, program information known to date, and information on travel and local housing. Participants will be responsible for making their own travel and housing arrangements.

www.msri.org

The Institute is committed to the principles of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action.
May 15, 2003

Zhiqin Lu
Univ of California, Irvine
Department of Mathematics
Irvine, CA 92697

Dear Professor Zhiqin Lu:

On behalf of the organizing committee, I am pleased to invite you to attend the 2003 Von Neumann Conference Symposium on Complex Geometry, Calibrations, and Special Holonomy from August 11, 2003 to August 20, 2003 at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, Berkeley, CA. (Lectures begin on Monday morning and run through Wednesday afternoon. Registration begins Monday morning, 8:00 a.m., August 11 in the lobby of M.S.R.I.) The Organizing Committee consists of Robert Bryant, Duke University (co-chair); Simon Donaldson, Imperial College; H. Blaine Lawson, SUNY at Stony Brook; Richard Schoen, Stanford University; and Gang Tian, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (co-chair).

As this conference is supported by an AMS fund established by Dr. and Mrs. Carroll V. Newsom, in honor of the memory of John von Neumann, I am pleased to inform you that we will be able to offer support up to $1,200.00 towards your expenses in connection with your attendance at the conference. If your actual expenses are less than the amount offered, you will be reimbursed only for the actual amount expended. Reimbursement requests for any expenses of $25 or more must be accompanied by receipts. Unfortunately, limited funds are available for financial assistance. To allow the maximum number of participants to attend, those people who are able to obtain support from other sources are urged to do so.

Please return the enclosed Participant Information Sheet/Preregistration Form to the Symposium Coordinator in the Meetings Department by June 18, 2003. If we do not have your reply by that date, it will be assumed that you will not be attending the conference, and the financial support budgeted for you will be used to support other participants.

A package of information pertaining to housing accommodations and check-in procedures, meal service, travel, recreation and other helpful material is enclosed. Participants are required to make their own travel and housing arrangements.

Please contact Wayne Drady at 401-455-4140 (email: wsd@ams.org) if you have any questions concerning administration of the conference. Inquiries about the scientific program should be directed to Robert Bryant/Gang Tian (email: bryant@math.duke.edu or tian@math.mit.edu).

Sincerely yours,

James W. Maxwell
Associate Executive Director