

George Mackey Library

The Clay Mathematics Institute is honored to be the recipient of Professor George Mackey's extensive mathematical library — a gift to the Institute by his widow Alice Mackey. The library adds 1220 volumes to the 720 previously received from the family of Raoul Bott in 2005. The addition of these books is a great benefit to CMI, both in carrying out its specific functions and in creating a general atmosphere that is conducive to doing mathematics, including the presentation of workshops at One Bow Street.

George Mackey was born February 1, 1916, and died on March 15, 2006. He is survived by his widow, Alice Mackey, and his daughter, Ann Mackey. His mathematical work and legacy are beautifully described in a twenty-seven page article in the Notices of the American Mathematical Society (Volume 54, number 7, August 2007), to which thirteen authors, among them many of his twenty-three students, contributed.

George Mackey received a bachelors degree in physics from the Rice Institute (now Rice University) in 1938, where he studied chemistry, physics, and mathematics. As one of the top five William Lowell Putnam Contest winners, he earned a scholarship to Harvard for graduate work, where he received his doctorate in mathematics in 1942

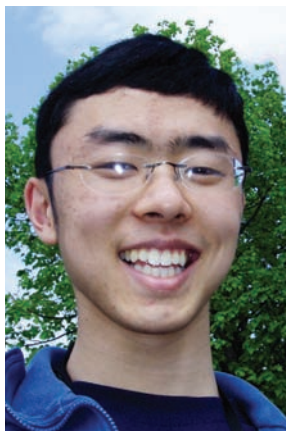


George Mackey in his office at Harvard, c. 1970s. Photo courtesy of the Mackey family.

under the direction of Marshall Stone. Following a one-year postdoctoral position at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Mackey returned to Harvard as an instructor. He was appointed the Landon T. Clay Professor of Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, and he remained at Harvard until he retired in 1985.

Mackey's main areas of interest were in representation theory, group actions, ergodic theory, functional analysis, and mathematical physics. He had a long and abiding interest in the mathematical foundations of quantum mechanics, an interest that led to his now classic work, *Mathematical Foundations of Quantum Mechanics* (1963). He was an influential and beloved figure, and a mentor to many.

2007 Olympiad Scholar Andrew Geng



Andrew Geng

On May 21, 2007, Andrew Geng of Westford, Massachusetts received the ninth Clay Mathematics Olympiad Scholar Award at the 36th USA Mathematical Olympiad Awards Ceremony in Washington, DC, the nation's premier high school level mathematics problem-solving competition. The USAMO is a two-day, nine-hour, six-question, essay-proof examination that is one of a series of national contests administered by the

American Mathematics Competitions and sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America and several other organizations.

The Clay Mathematics Olympiad Scholar Award is given for the solution to an Olympiad problem judged most creative. It consists of a plaque and cash award to the recipient, and a cash award to the recipient's school. It is presented each year at the official awards dinner for the US American Mathematics Olympiad (USAMO) held in June in Washington, DC at the State Department Ballroom.

Andrew is currently enjoying classes at MIT where he has chosen to major in mathematics and devotes much of his free time to teaching in the Educational Studies Program.