Dr. Kwangil Koh

Dr. Kwangil Koh was born in Seoul, Korea, the eldest son of Dr. Moonyoung Koh and Onsoon Koh. At the outbreak of the Korean conflict, he interrupted his education at Seoul National University to volunteer for duty in the South Korean armed forces. He served three years and was honorably discharged with the rank of captain at the end of hostilities.

Koh attended Auburn University, where he received B.S. and M.S. degrees in 1959 and 1960, respectively. He then completed his doctoral research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, receiving his Ph.D. in 1964. Koh joined the faculty at NC State University later that year and rose to the position of full professor in 1968.

Koh’s lifelong commitment to education was a cardinal feature of his tenure at NC State. For many years, he served as an examiner in the William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition conducted by the Mathematical Association of America. He taught thousands of students over the course of his career until his retirement in 2004, continuing to teach part-time and actively participate in the research and educational activities of the department until the time of his death.

Dr. Kwangil Koh died on January 26, 2009. His generous spirit, powerful intellect and profound integrity remain an inspiration to his friends, family and colleagues.

This public lecture is the ninth in an annual series honoring our late colleague. The goal of the Koh lectures is to communicate the importance of mathematics and its impact on science, technology and society. The Kwangil Koh Lecture is supported by the Department of Mathematics and the friends and colleagues of Kwangil Koh.

To help support this lecture, visit go.ncsu.edu/koh

Abstract: Information Dynamics on Social Networks

Social networks play a crucial role in how we share and discuss ideas. This talk delves into the mathematics behind the spread of information (such as opinions or beliefs) on social networks.