



David Bryant Mumford was born in 1937 in Worth, West Sussex, England. He went to Harvard University for his undergraduate and doctoral studies and he obtained his Ph.D. degree in 1961 for his work on the existence of the moduli scheme for curves of any genus. He has been a professor at Harvard University for over three decades and is currently Professor Emeritus in the Division of Applied Mathematics at Brown University, Rhode Island, U.S.A.

Professor Mumford is a world renowned researcher in both algebraic geometry and computer vision. He has made phenomenal contributions to the field of algebraic geometry which distinguishes him as one of the leading figures in the subject in the 20th Century. His major work in geometry lies in his contributions to the problem of the existence and structure of varieties of moduli. This is a central topic in algebraic geometry having its origins in the work of Riemann. The work of Professor Mumford has played a central role in the development of this subject in the last fifty years, an important aspect of which is the resuscitation of the classical theory of invariants. Besides this, he has made several important contributions to the theory of algebraic surfaces.

After working for two decades in algebraic geometry, Professor Mumford has gone on to make original and fundamental contributions in the area of computer vision and pattern theory. His work has helped to construct a conceptual framework for the field and to provide examples of specific solutions that can, in principle, be generalized to a range of problems. His paper with Shah, in 1985, on variational approaches to signal processing was recently awarded a prize by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, USA. He is a recipient of the Fields Medal (1974), the MacArthur Fellowship and numerous honorary degrees and awards which include the Shaw Prize, the Steele Prize and, as recently as January 2008, the Wolf Prize.

Professor Mumford is a brilliant expositor with a characteristic style which synthesizes the classical geometric perspective with the modern scheme-theoretic techniques and insight of Grothendieck. He has authored several books which are now considered classics in the subject.

Professor Mumford is a mathematician in the broadest sense of the term and a rare example of one who has made fundamental contributions to diverse fields. The Chennai Mathematical Institute is indeed privileged to honour Professor D. Mumford by conferring on him the degree of **Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa)**.

