Wiles Receives Ostrowski Prize

ANDREW WILES of Princeton University has been awarded the Ostrowski Prize. The prize recognizes "his outstanding work on modular forms and elliptic curves, which led to the final solution of Fermat's problem on the nonexistence of integer solutions to any equation $x^n + y^n = z^n$, n is greater than two."

The Ostrowski Foundation was created by Alexander M. Ostrowski, for many years a professor at the University of Basel. He left his entire estate to the foundation and stipulated that the income should provide a prize for outstanding achievements in mathematics. The prize is awarded every other year and is currently 50,000 Swiss francs (about US $42,000). Previous recipients of the Ostrowski Prize are Louis de Branges (1989), Jean Bourgain (1991), and Miklos Laczkovich and Marina Ratner (1993). The jury for the Prize consists of representatives from the universities of Basel, Jerusalem, and Waterloo, and from the academies of Amsterdam and Denmark.

Robert K. Pedersen, President of Ostrowski Prize Jury