WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Mathematics and Statistics

The Lecture Series in the
Mathematical Sciences Presents Our Guest:

Dr. Gregory Chaitin

IBM, T.J. Watson Research Center,
Yorktown Heights, New York

"How serious is Godel's incompleteness theorem?"

Abstract:

This year is the centenary of Godel's birth, but we still do not know how seriously we should take his famous 1931 incompleteness theorem, and whether it implies that mathematics should be done somewhat differently. I will review Godel's original "I'm unprovable" proof, Turing's version deriving incompleteness from uncomputability, and my own approach to incompleteness based on notions of information, complexity and randomness, and I'll also discuss a new quasi-empirical approach to mathematics emphasizing the similarities between mathematics and physics rather than the differences.

Friday, October 6, 2006
3:00 PM in 127 Jabara Hall

Please come join us for refreshments before the lecture at 2:30 p.m. in room 353 Jabara Hall.