

October 25, 2020

I've linked this document to a talk given by Avery Broderick at the Perimeter Institute. [Click Here](#) It shows the outside of the buildings. It is a 24/7 place. It has a 5 star eatery going all the time... grand pianos and fine art all over the place.

The walls inside are covered with formulas. There is a quantum computer there too... Nobel Prize winners walking around.

I know some of the researchers and faculty. Via some strange connections, they wanted to come and visit me.

They suggested 100 people. I declined because of ... dog, cat, grandkids etc. The person pushing from the PI side was a director and she came with another director who I knew. She liked my work space on the 3rd floor. She said it all reminded her of how Freeman Dyson worked (iconic physicist) Dyson? You know

Dyson??? Yes, she said and she pulled a picture out of her wallet kissing the over 90 year man on the cheek. She offered to introduce me to him. I said ok and exchanged emails with him about an unsolved problem.

She came again with another researcher and I finally agreed. On this visit the two of them climbed inside of our giant Fresnel Lens. Wow! not good. She put the details together for the visit of 18.

It was all very strange, but they came on a charter bus for a full day and evening visit. They looked at some of the things I have done. I did a talk at night for them. It was getting stranger all the time. I met Neil Turock and his wife. He was the head of PI and a close friend of Hawkings. They did work together.

As a group, they were full of life and fun, but zany ... like climbing a 17' sculpture that I had done and swinging like monkeys.

Anyway, I met briefly with Avery Broderick that night and he told me that he was working on an imaging project for the Black Hole called M87 using telescopes all over the world working on the same thing. He was in it for 10 years so far. I was very impressed with the goal, but I thought that maybe 30 years would be reasonable or maybe never.

I was shocked to see Avery on CNN soon thereafter and quickly then he showed up all over the world for his work. BBC, NPR ... He was instantly famous. It has huge ramifications. He is a very good speaker and you might look at this lecture he did at PI not long afterward.

I along with two of my friends were at the very first lectures given in their modern and comfortable theatre at PI. Among many others speaking that day ... Weinberg etc was the famous cosmologist Roger Penrose who has just won the Nobel Prize for physics. His theories were proven by Avery's work a short time later. He had

postulated a conjecture that, if true, would verify Einstein's General Theory of Relativity. Everything worked as predicted. My friend Ken Rothenberg and I were in the first row at the Penrose lecture. It was a huge success. They thought they would get 250 people, but 8,500 people wanting to hear the lectures finally changed everything with multiple auditoriums and giant food supply issues taking up logistic energy.

Sometimes I feel like Zelig with all this happening so late in life.

Mike Sterling