

December 27, 2011

Dear Bob,

Two years and one month ago, we sat down for a breakfast which changed my life. You laid out your vision for directing the machinery of applied mathematics to biology and in doing so opened me to the correspondence between equations and how nature uses them. Our investigations, my job, and my life now are direct consequences of this way of thinking and thus I am eternally grateful to you.

Your passion and activism has also altered my approach to people; I have replaced reactivity with patience and understanding. When people ask where I get my energy and optimism, I say it happened after meeting the Rush Chairman.

Christmas celebrates reality entering our lives gratuitously. I am writing to say thank you for showing me reality in exactly this way.

Merry Christmas, Rolf