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Ex-UF expert honored at White House



Barack Obama, Rudolf Kalman

AP Photo/Gerald Herbert

President Barack Obama presents the National Medal of Science to Dr. Rudolf Kalman of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland, Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2009, in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

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President Barack Obama honored a Gainesville resident Wednesday at the White House with the National Medal of Science.

Rudolf Kalman is a former University of Florida professor and director of UF's Center for Mathematical System Theory.

Established in 1959, the medal recognizes individuals for outstanding contributions to science and engineering. A committee of presidential appointees selects nominees.

Kalman is best known for helping to develop a mathematical technique in the early 1960s to remove noise from a stream of data. The Kalman filter was used during the Apollo space program, and other applications include atmospheric observations, global positioning systems and radar tracking.

Kalman's contributions have been recognized through several major awards. He won the 2008 Charles Stark Draper Prize, a \$500,000 prize for lifetime contributions to engineering. He was one of four recipients of the 1985 Kyoto Prize, which is sometimes called the Japanese Nobel prize.

Born in Hungary, Kalman was a graduate research professor at UF from 1971 to 1992. He is a professor emeritus at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich and a member of the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The White House announced last month that Kalman and eight other scientists would be awarded the medal. He could not be reached for comment.

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From Yahoo News

<http://ca.news.yahoo.com/nphotos/Dr-Rudolph-Kalman-is-pictured-with-his-National-Medal-of-Science-in-Washington/photo/07102009/6/photo/photos-n-usa-dr-rudolph-kalman-pictured-national-medal-science-washington.html>



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Rudolph Kalman from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich is pictured with his National Medal of Science after he was presented the award by U.S. President Barack Obama (not pictured) during an awards ceremony for leaders in the field of Science and Technology at the White House in Washington, October 7, 2009.

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