Professor Zagier was born in Germany but was educated in the United States and England, graduating from high school at the age of 13 and from university at the age of 16 and receiving his doctorate at the age of 20. Since then he has held positions in many countries, but withhis primary affiliation always being at the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in Bonn, of which he was a Scientific Member and one of four directors until his retirement in 2019. Partly because of this international lifestyle, he has developed a strong interest in other cultures and languages and his most important work has been in collaboration with other people: first with his teacher Friedrich Hirzebruch then with Eichler, Gross, Harer, Jacquet, Lewis, Dabholkar and Murthy, and most recently with Boris Dubrovin and Di Yang and with Stavros Garoufalidis. The last two of these coauthors work in the USTC in Hefei and at SUSTech, respectively, so that in recent years his ties to China have been particularly strong, and he currently has a 5-year appointment with SUSTech as a Distinguished Visiting Professor. He has also been affiliated with the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste since 2014 and currently holds the Ramanujan International Chair there. Zagier's research interests center around number theory and especially the theory of modular forms, but almost always with connections to other parts of mathematics, ranging

from algebraic geometry to combinatorics, moduli spaces, integrable systems, differential equations, and mathematical physics. His main current project, the ongoing work with Garoufalidis and others, is particularly interdisciplinary, since it mixes results and ideas from 3-dimensional topology, algebraic number theory and K-theory, asymptotic analysis, modular forms, and quantum field theory. Zagier's work is also characterized by a strong interest in explicit computations and numerical techniques.