Walt de Heer is a Berkeley educated, Dutch physicist, who has been active in basic research on atomic clusters and carbon nanostructures for over four decades. He is known for the discovery of the electronic shell structure in metal clusters, field emission and room temperature ballistic conduction in carbon nanotubes and, starting in 2001, for his pioneering work in epigraphene electronics. With his former post-doc, Prof. Lei Ma, he has established the new TICNN center in Tianjin China that provides a focus for international epigraphene research.