

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 28, 2007

Contact: Anne Brooks Pfister
w) 510.642.0448 / c) 510.688.8376
annepf@msri.org - www.msri.org

MSRI presents special events in 2008:

From a conversation with Alan Alda to a math festival @Google & Pixar
Institute in its 25th year of advancing mathematics and public understanding of science

BERKELEY, CA – The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) announced today several events beginning in the new year to engage the public and students throughout the greater Bay Area. Math will be under discussion for how it displays a close kinship to music, underlies games and puzzles, and how it is applied as a powerful tool to unravel complex biological systems. Recently, MSRI reached its 25-year anniversary as an independent institute dedicated to mathematical research. The Institute sponsors math-related public events as part of a longstanding tradition of serving the community. MSRI actively works throughout the Bay Area to enhance mathematics education by supporting math circles for middle- and high-school students and teachers. The Institute also achieves a national impact in K-12 math education as a resource that annually convenes the *Critical Issues in Mathematics Education* conference, which brings together math educators, mathematicians, classroom teachers, school leaders, and policymakers.

Jan. 17, 2008 (Thurs.), 7 pm – M*A*T*H: Alan Alda in conversation with Bob Osserman

Alan Alda, Emmy award-winning actor, director, writer for film and television, and author of bestselling [memoirs](#), will talk with mathematician Bob Osserman about Alda's lifelong interest in science. Alda has also sought to promote a greater understanding of science by the public, which has led him to host *Scientific American Frontiers* for eleven years. Presented by MSRI, the event takes place at The Roda Theatre, Berkeley Repertory, located at 2015 Addison St. (near the Downtown Berkeley BART station on Shattuck Ave.) in Berkeley, on Thursday, January 17, 2008 at 7:00 pm. Tickets, \$22 and \$14 each, can be purchased from the Box Office at 510.647.2949 or 1.888.427.8849; or online at <http://www.berkeleyrep.org/ticketing/calendar/index.aspx>. For more information see: http://www.msri.org/calendar/specialevents/SpecialEventInfo/314/show_specialevent

January 26, 2008 (Sat.) at 4:00 pm at MSRI's Simons Auditorium in Berkeley – Christopher Taylor in conversation with David Benson and Robert Osserman

Acclaimed pianist Christopher Taylor appears in conversation with David Benson, author of the book [Music: A Mathematical Offering](#), and Robert Osserman, MSRI Special Projects Director. FREE ADMISSION. This event begins the [25th Anniversary Celebration](#), and conference, at the Institute, located at 17 Gauss Way in Berkeley (near the intersection of Centennial Dr. and Grizzly Peak Blvd.). The discussion takes place on Saturday, Jan. 26 at 4:00 pm with a reception following the event. Presented by MSRI in association with Cal Performances. For more information, see http://www.msri.org/calendar/specialevents/SpecialEventInfo/308/show_specialevent.

May 4, 2008 (Sunday) @Google & May 10, 2008 (Saturday) at Pixar Animation Studios – The Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival

The second annual Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival will be an exciting scene of over 350 students, in grades 6-12, at two Bay Area locations this year. Students will have the opportunity to gather again under Google's big tent on the Peninsula or visit the Pixar Animation Studios in the East Bay. They'll test their brain power and learn "hands-on" about math topics. Their efforts will also earn them raffle tickets for prizes. Students will circulate among numerous "activity tables" where mathematicians and

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 28, 2007

Contact: Anne Brooks Pfister
w) 510.642.0448 / c) 510.688.8376
annepf@msri.org - www.msri.org

May 4 & 10, 2008: The Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival @Google & Pixar (*continued*)

Google and Pixar engineers will engage with them to figure out the math behind puzzles, games and problems. The desJardins/Blachman Fund, Google, and Pixar are sponsors of the Festival, which was wildly popular last year with students—and their parents! Presented by MSRI and hosted by Google, located at 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway in Mountain View, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on Sunday, May 4, 2008; hosted by Pixar on Saturday, May 10th (time to be determined), located at 1200 Park Avenue in Emeryville, California. Joshua Zucker of the Castilleja School directs the program. For more information and for students to sign-up, please go to www.jrmathfestival.org.

**May 5, 2008 (Monday evening) at the Berkeley Repertory's Roda Theatre –
MSRI Biology Colloquium: A Public Talk by biologist Garrett Odell**

Distinguished mathematical biologist Garrett Odell, Director of the Center for Cell Dynamics at the University of Washington, will present a free public talk on “How, *in silico*, the sea urchin embryo gets its furrow in the right place.” Professor Odell’s background in theoretical mechanics and mathematics applies the rigor of computational models based on dynamical systems theory to experimentally discovered and characterized molecular information. In his research Odell seeks explanations for the deep mysteries of how molecules animate living cells, which constituted by inanimate chemicals that combine through myriad interactions, come, ineffably, to life! The lecture takes place at the Berkeley Rep’s Roda Theatre, located at 2015 Addison St. (near the Downtown Berkeley BART station on Shattuck Avenue) in Berkeley, on the evening of Monday, May 5, 2008 (time to be determined). FREE ADMISSION. Dr. Garrett Odell’s weeklong visit to the Institute, May 5-9, is part of the [MSRI Biology Colloquium](#), during which he will give two more (free) scientific lectures on biology for mathematicians (dates to be determined). For more information about Dr. Odell’s work, please see <http://raven.zoology.washington.edu/celldynamics/about/index.html>.

The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI, www.msri.org) is one of the world’s premiere centers for research in the mathematical sciences, and has been advancing mathematical research through workshops and conferences since its founding as an independent institute in 1982. More than 1,700 mathematical scientists visit MSRI each year in Berkeley, CA, many for stays of up to one academic year. The Institute has been funded primarily by the National Science Foundation with additional support from other government agencies, private foundations, academic and corporate sponsors, and individual donors.

-- 3+3³ --