Pixar’s Tony DeRose Reveals How Math Makes Movies
7 p.m., Wed., Sept. 11 at Berkeley City College Auditorium

WHAT: “Math in the Movies.” Tony DeRose will illustrate the extraordinary contribution of mathematics to animated films. Pixar constructs movies entirely on computers, and math and science underlie the stunning visuals that are essential to their storytelling. Using numerous clips from such productions as Finding Nemo, Ratatouille, The Incredibles, Monsters, Inc. and Brave, DeRose will demonstrate how this is done through advances made in computer technology, physics, geometry, and applied math. His talk is part of the “Not on the Test: The Pleasures and Uses of Mathematics” series of six public lectures in 2013–14, which are jointly presented by the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) and the Berkeley City College (BCC) and made possible with funding from the Simons Foundation.

WHO: Tony DeRose is a senior scientist and lead of the research group at Pixar Animation Studios. He received a bachelor’s degree in Physics from the University of California, Davis, and a doctorate in Computer Science from the University of California, Berkeley. From 1986 to 1995, Dr. DeRose was a Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Washington. In 1998, he was a major contributor to the Oscar-winning short film Geri’s game, in 1999 he received the ACM SIGGRAPH Computer Graphics Achievement Award, and in 2006 he received a Scientific and Technical Academy Award for his work on surface representations. In addition to his research interests, Tony is also involved in a number of initiatives to help make math, science, and engineering education more inspiring and relevant for middle- and high-school students. An example is the Young Makers Program that supports youth in building ambitious hands-on projects of their own choosing.

WHEN: 7:00–8:15 P.M., WED., SEPT. 11

WHERE: Berkeley City College’s Auditorium at 2050 Center Street (between Shattuck Ave. & Milvia St., one half block west of the Downtown Berkeley BART station on Shattuck Ave; for a map, see http://goo.gl/0vJRT) in Berkeley. For information, the public can call MSRI at 510.642.0143.

WEBPAGE: See http://tinyurl.com/TonyDeRose

HOW: Free Admission

PHOTO: Photo of Tony DeRose available by request to Anne Pfister at annepf@msri.org.

SPONSOR: The generous support of the Simons Foundation (www.simonsfoundation.org) has made possible the “Not on the Test” MSRI-BCC lecture series.

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About MSRI: The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI, www.msri.org), in Berkeley, California, is one of the world’s preeminent 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. Approximately 2,000 mathematicians visit the MSRI each year, and the Institute hosts about 85 leading researchers at any given time 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, corporations, individual donors, and nearly 100 academic institutions. The MSRI is involved in K-12 math education through its annual Critical Issues in Mathematics Education conferences for educators, math circles, the National Association for Math Circles and its website (NAMC, www.mathcircles.org), and Olympiad math competitions; in undergraduate education through its MSRI-UP program; and in public education through its “Conversations” series and a variety of public events.

About BCC: Berkeley City College (BCC) (www.berkeleycitycollege.edu), one of California’s 112 community colleges, is part of the Peralta Community College District, which includes College of Alameda, Laney College and Merritt College. BCC, which began in 1974, is centrally located in downtown Berkeley, only 1-1/2 blocks from the U.C. Berkeley campus. BCC’s mission is to contribute to the success of all students and to the well-being of the community by offering the best possible education which promises intellectual growth, social mobility, economic development and an understanding of diverse ideas and peoples. The college is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. BCC offers transfer and occupational training classes, associate degree and certificate programs. The college is an active partner in local economic development and employment training endeavors. Financial aid, academic and career counseling, programs for students with disabilities and assistance for economically disadvantaged students are available. The college maintains a strong and unique community college/university collaboration with the University of California at Berkeley. BCC is second in California in the percentage of students who transfer to U.C. Berkeley and is second in the state in the percentage of students who transfer to all U.C. campuses in Northern California.