

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Games and Math: How Playing Forms a Key to Learning Math Basics
7 p.m., Wed., Oct. 9 at Berkeley City College Auditorium

WHAT: “**Video Games for Mathematics.**” Keith Devlin has spent the past several years developing casual games that provide representations of mathematics to enable children (and adults) to learn basic mathematics by “playing,” the same way we can learn music by learning to play the piano. Devlin’s 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: **Dr. Keith Devlin** is a mathematician at Stanford University, a co-founder and Executive Director of the university’s H-STAR institute, a co-founder of the Stanford Media X research network, and a Senior Researcher at CSLI. His current research focuses on the use of different media to teach and communicate mathematics to diverse audiences. He is a co-founder and President of InnerTube Games, an educational video games company. He has written 32 books and over 80 published research articles. His awards include Peano Prize, the Pythagoras Prize, and the Carl Sagan Award. Devlin is known as “the Math Guy” on National Public Radio.

WHEN: 7:00–8:15 P.M., WED., OCTOBER 9

WHERE: **Berkeley City College’s Auditorium at 2050 Center St.** in Berkeley (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>).

WEB PAGE: See <http://tinyurl.com/KeithDevlin>

HOW: Free Admission

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

PHOTO: Photos of Keith Devlin are available at <http://www.stanford.edu/~kdevlin/photos.html>

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.

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