

For Immediate Release
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MSRI Calculates Ahead: Major Events for 2005-06 Academic Year *Musicians, Math Circles and “The Simpsons” top the lineup*

Berkeley, California – The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) today announced a fascinating calendar of upcoming events certain to engage and inform students of all ages, whether they are math lovers or the general math-fearing public. Programs range from accelerating classroom achievement to revealing math’s often unacknowledged contribution to music and art, in addition to proving how math can share the limelight and be fun—on The Simpsons.

“Our programs this year will show how important math and science are in everyday life,” said MSRI Director David Eisenbud. “One of MSRI’s primary goals is to further mathematics and the mathematical sciences at all levels, these programs help us reach out to those who may not be in our direct field of vision.”

Events include:

September 2005 – Launching the San Francisco Math Circle Program

The San Francisco Math Circle is a unique weekly program designed to excite students about math and broadly enhance their skills, and works in tandem with a specialized workshop for math teachers. Each week, two classes meet simultaneously—one for students in grades 6–10, and one class for teachers—at San Francisco State University (SFSU). Unlike most extracurricular activities the students, drawn primarily from the San Francisco Unified School District, participate in the SF Math Circle only on their teachers’ recommendation. The program is funded at MSRI through The Moody’s Foundation and the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation.

October 16, 2005 – Good News, Everyone! Mathematical Writers from The Simpsons and Futurama

MSRI invites the public to attend a free forum with writers from The Simpsons and Futurama—David X. Cohen, Ken Keeler, and Jeff Westbrook (who all have advanced degrees in either mathematics or computer science)—and moderator Sarah J. Greenwald. The panelists’ freewheeling conversation on the role of math in the long-running television series begins at 2:00 PM on the UC Berkeley campus in the Valley Life Sciences Building’s Chan Shun Auditorium (Rm. 2050).

November 2005 – The Math of Music

A new series of panel discussions begins that features an array of accomplished musicians—from classical to alternative—speaking with moderator and mathematician Bob Osserman and, in some cases, playing to demonstrate the intermingling links between math and music.

January 2006 – A Bigger and Better Home for MSRI

The Institute’s building renovation and expansion project will be celebrated as MSRI returns to its spectacular location high atop the Berkeley hills.

April 2006 – “Who Wants to Be a Mathematician?”

With a nod to the game show “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire,” this contest allows students in San Francisco and the East Bay to compete for a \$1,000 prize. Don’t worry, “life lines” will be provided! Presented in association with the American Mathematical Society (AMS).

MSRI is the premiere center for research in the mathematical sciences, and has been advancing mathematical research through workshops and conferences since its founding in 1982. More than 1700 mathematical scientists visit MSRI each year, many for substantial periods.

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