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Media Advisory

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Math Festival for students held in the East Bay for the first time

350 kids will solve math problems, games and puzzles for fun!

■ **WHAT –** The **Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival** extends its reach this year with an event in the East Bay, as well as on the Peninsula (Mt. View). At both Bay Area locations, 350 students will have the opportunity to test their brain power and learn "hands-on" about math topics. For their efforts, students will earn raffle tickets to win prized goodies and math books. Students will circulate among more than twenty different "activity tables" where approximately 50 mathematicians and engineers will engage the kids as they figure out the math behind puzzles, games and problems. For more event information, please see www.msri.org/specials/festival/invite2008.html.

■ **WHEN – SATURDAY, May 10, 2008 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.**

■ **WHERE – Pixar Animation Studios: 1200 Park Avenue in Emeryville, California.**

■ **WHY –** To celebrate and share the joys and wonders of math with kids. The math festival is named in honor of Julia Robinson (1919-1985), the Berkeley mathematician who made significant contributions to the solution of Hilbert's Tenth Problem. Among her accolades, she was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 1983.

■ **WHO – Guest Speaker: Dr. Tony DeRose,** will speak on "Math in the Movies." Film making is undergoing a digital revolution brought on by advances in areas such as computer technology, computational physics, and geometry. Using several examples drawn from Pixar's feature films, DeRose will provide a behind-the-scenes look at the role that math plays in the revolution.

Tony DeRose is currently a Senior Scientist and lead of the Research Group at Pixar Animation Studios. He received a BS in Physics in from the University of California, Davis, and a Ph.D. 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 an Academy Award® for his work on surface representations.

A photograph of Dr. DeRose is available by request sent to Anne Pfister at annepf@msri.org*.*

■ **HOW – FREE!** *For registration, please see:* https://secure.msri.org/forms/jrmf/pixar

■ **DETAILS – THE JULIA ROBINSON MATHEMATICS FESTIVAL** is hosted by **Pixar Animation Studios** and sponsored by the **desJardins/Blachman Fund** and MSRI.

About Pixar

Pixar Animation Studios, a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company, is an Academy Award®-winning film studio with world-renowned technical, creative and production capabilities in the art of computer animation. Creator of some of the most successful and beloved animated films of all time, including Toy Story, Finding Nemo, The Incredibles, Cars, and most recently, Ratatouille. The Northern California studio has won 21 Academy Awards® and its seven films have grossed more than $4 billion at the worldwide box office to date. The next film release from Disney•Pixar is WALL•E (June 27, 2008).

The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI, www.msri.org), based in Berkeley, CA, 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 2,500 mathematicians visit the Institute each year. MSRI is involved in K-12 math education through "Critical Issues" conferences for educators and math circles and Olympiads for students, and public education through its "Conversations" series of public events.