

# BAMA

School Year 2010—2011  
Join us for a free talk...

# 5

## Ivars Peterson

### *The Jungles of Randomness*



Santa Clara University, Daly Science 207

Wednesday, February 23, 7:30 pm

From slot machines and amusement park rides to dice games and shuffled cards, chance and chaos pervade everyday life. Sorting through the various meanings of randomness and distinguishing between what we can and cannot know with certainty proves to be no simple matter. Inside information on how slot machines work, the perils of believing random number generators, and the questionable fairness of dice, tossed coins, and shuffled cards illustrate how tricky randomness can be.

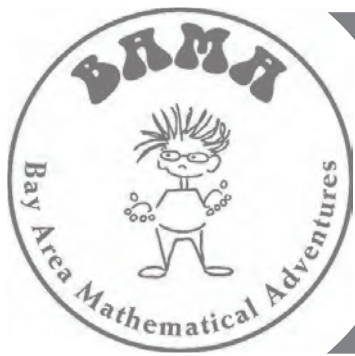
***Ivars Peterson*** is Director of Publications and Communications at the Mathematical Association of America in Washington, D.C. As an award-winning mathematics writer, he previously worked at *Science News* for more than 25 years and served as editor of *Science News Online* and *Science News for Kids*. His books include *The Mathematical Tourist*, *Islands of Truth*, *Newton's Clock*, *The Jungles of Randomness*, and *Fragments of Infinity: A Kaleidoscope of Math and Art*. He writes "The Mathematical Tourist" blog.



\* See back for map and directions.

Visit the Bay Area Mathematical Adventures (BAMA) at <http://mathematicaladventures.org>

To receive email notifications about BAMA talks, please contact Frank Farris at [ffarris@scu.edu](mailto:ffarris@scu.edu) .



# BAMA

## Bay Area Mathematical Adventures

A series of presentations on diverse topics by remarkable mathematicians. All talks are free and open to the public.

### WHY?

BAMA aims to challenge and motivate students to think mathematically. Speakers will present real mathematics, and will share with the audience modern views of mathematics. Some talks will provide students with related problems, or will enable teachers to expand later on the topics with their students.

### WHO?

BAMA is aimed at bright high-school age students. However, all are welcome: younger or older students, teachers, parents, and the general public.

### WHEN?

Evening talks will be given approximately once a month between September and April. Each talk will be self-contained (speakers will not assume their audiences have attended previous talks).

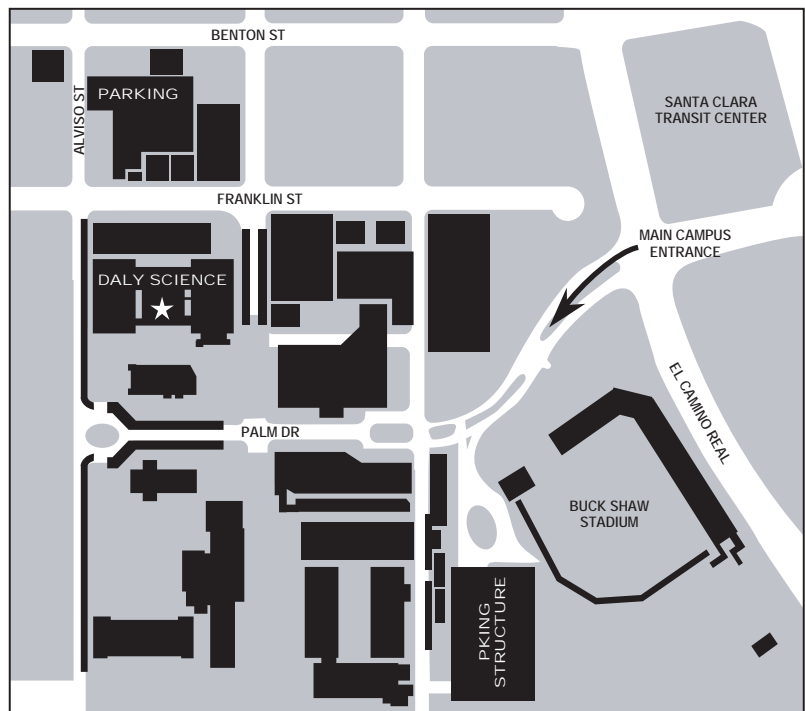
### WHERE?

Santa Clara University  
Daly Science, rm. 207

- From US Highway 101, take the De La Cruz Blvd/Santa Clara exit and follow the signs to El Camino Real and the main campus entrance.
- From I-280, take I-880 north toward Oakland to The Alameda exit. Turn left onto The Alameda (which becomes El Camino Real) to the main campus entrance.
- From I-880, take The Alameda exit, travel north (The Alameda becomes El Camino Real) to the main campus entrance.

Note: People attending a BAMA talk at SCU may park after 7:00 pm in the Franklin/Alviso parking lot, or ask the SCU guard at the main entrance kiosk for a Visitor Permit for the Parking Structure (garage).

- If you have a disability and require reasonable accommodation, please call anyone on the steering committee, or 1 800 735 2929 (TTY - California Relay) 24 hours in advance.



#### SPONSORS:

**San Jose State University**  
Departments of Mathematics and Computer Science  
College of Engineering

**Santa Clara University**  
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

American Institute of Mathematics

Mathematical Sciences Research Institute

#### FOR MORE INFO:

<http://www.mathematicaladventures.org>

#### BAMA Steering Committee:

Tatiana Shubin	SJSU	408-924-5146
Frank Farris	SCU	408-554-4430
Bradley Jackson	SJSU	408-924-5100
Gerald L. Alexanderson	SCU	408-554-6894