

BAMA 6

School Year 2016—2017
Join us for a free talk...

Robert Megginson

Got Math? We Did, Long Before Europeans Arrived!



San Jose State University*
Science Building, Rm. 142

7:30 pm
Wednesday, April 5, 2017

BAMA generally specializes in sharing modern views of mathematics, but for this presentation there will be a break from that tradition, in that some very old but remarkably sophisticated views of mathematics will be shared. The presentation will begin with a short excursion into Algonkian attitudes toward number as shown in Ojibwe number words. However, the centerpiece of the discussion will be some of the less well-known features of classical Central American mathematics, e.g., the number theory involved in the misunderstood "end of the world" computation attributed to the Maya that led to predictions of a doomsday earlier in this decade. The talk will be interactive, in that the audience will have the opportunity to try to solve (in groups) some real problems that appear on monuments of the classical Mayan era (and, if there is time, figure out when the world was supposed to end).

Bob Megginson is Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Mathematics at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where he has been since 1992 except for a two-year term as Deputy Director of the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute in Berkeley. Recognitions for his nationally-known work to increase the participation of underrepresented minorities in mathematics include the U.S. Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring, as well as the highest service awards of the Mathematical Association of America and the American Indian Science and Engineering Society. He has been named to the Native American Science and Engineering Wall of Fame at Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, and portrayed in 100 Native Americans Who Shaped American History by Bonnie Juettner.

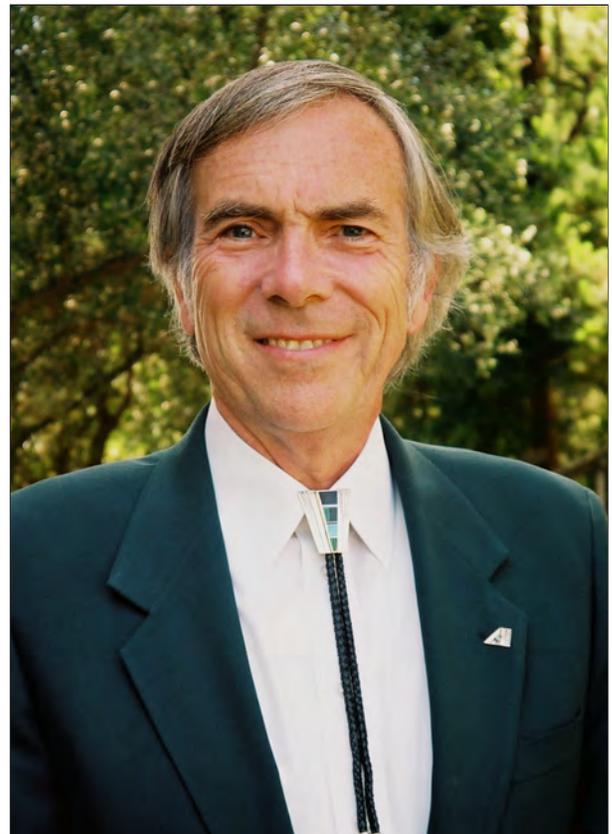
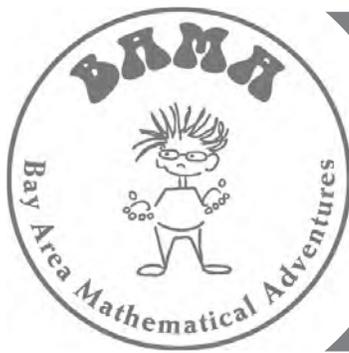


Photo by George Csicsery

* 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.



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.

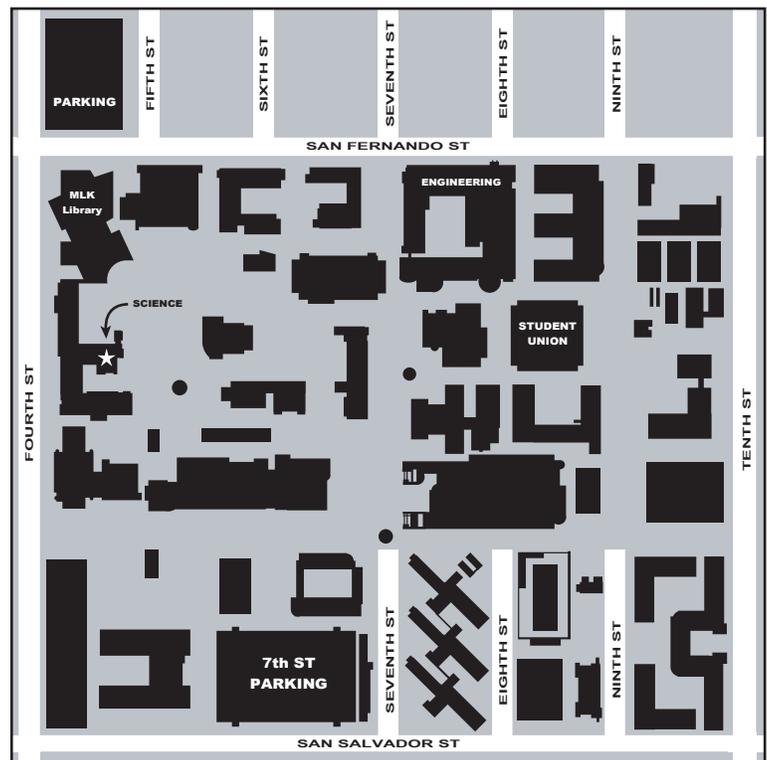
WHEN?

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?

San Jose State University Science Building, Rm 142

- From 101 take the First Street or Guadalupe Expressway exit and go to Fourth Street.
- Take Fourth to San Salvador Street; turn left onto San Salvador and park in the South Garage. The automated pay stations located on level 3 and above accept coins, \$1, \$5 and \$10 bills, Visa or Master Cards. Parking is \$1.00 per ½ hour or \$5.00 day pass after 5:30.
- From 280 take the 7th Street exit and turn North on Seventh St. The garage is on the left after 5 or 6 blocks.



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Mathematical Sciences Research Institute

FOR MORE INFO:

<http://www.mathematicaladventures.org>

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