BAMA 6

School Year 2008—2009
Join us for a free talk...

Jeff Weeks

The Shape of Space

San José State University*
Engineering Auditorium, Rm. 189
7:30 pm
Thursday, March 26

When we look out on a clear night, the universe seems infinite. Yet this infinity might be an illusion. During the first half of the presentation, computer games will introduce the concept of a "multiconnected universe". Interactive 3D graphics will then take the viewer on a tour of several possible shapes for space. Finally, we'll see how recent satellite data provide tantalizing clues to the true shape of our universe.

The only prerequisites for this talk are curiosity and imagination.

Jeff Weeks fell in love with geometry in 12th grade when he read Flatland. While an undergraduate at Dartmouth College he bounced back and forth between math and physics, eventually settling on math and going on to study topology at Princeton University with Bill Thurston and his students, whose colored-chalk approach to mathematics Jeff loved.

After teaching at Ithaca College, Jeff resigned to be a full-time Dad for several years. From there he fell into the life of a free-lance mathematician, at first part-time, then full-time. He enjoyed extensive work with the Geometry Center and the NSF as well as smaller gigs for science museums and teaching at Middlebury College. In 1999 an unexpected phone call brought a MacArthur Fellowship: five years of unfettered work on cosmic topology, along with time to finish the unit Exploring the Shape of Space for middle schools and high schools. With NSF support, Jeff is currently writing new and more extensive geometry and topology software.

*** See back for map and directions.**