**The Math Colloquium**
**Department of Mathematics**
**San José State University**

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# Ted Hill
### Georgia Tech

*Knowing When to Stop*
MARCH 10, 2010, MH320

**Abstract:** In many processes, like trading stocks, debugging a large software program, or interviewing for a new secretary, there is an element of chance involved, and a crucial problem is deciding when to stop to optimize your reward. In this talk, the elegant and unexpected solution to the classical "no-information" Secretary Problem (also known in the literature as the Marriage, Dowry, or Best-Choice Problem) will be reviewed, along with several game-theoretic extensions, analogues for "full-information" and "partial-information" stopping, and several basic unsolved problems.

*Background:* Basic knowledge of undergraduate probability.

**About the speaker:** Ted Hill, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at Georgia Tech, studied at West Point (BS), Stanford (MS), Göttingen (Fulbright Scholar) and Berkeley (MA, PhD). His primary research interests are in mathematical probability, and he has held visiting appointments in Costa Rica, Germany (Gauss Professor), Holland (NATO Fellow), Israel, Italy, and Mexico.

SNACKS IN MH331B AT 2:30 PM
TALK STARTS AT 3 PM

For more information, see our full schedule at:

http://www.math.sjsu.edu/∼hsu/colloq/