

# BI-CO MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM

*Mathematics Awareness Month Keynote Speaker*

**Ivars Peterson**

*“Pancake Sorting, Prefix Reversals,  
and DNA Rearrangements”*

**Monday, April 13, 2015**

Talk at 4:00 – Park 243  
Tea at 3:30 – Park 355, Math Lounge  
Reception to follow Talk

**Abstract:**

The seemingly simple problem of sorting a stack of differently sized pancakes has become a staple of theoretical computer science and led to insights into the evolution of species. First proposed in the *American Mathematical Monthly*, the problem attracted the attention of noted mathematicians and computer scientists. It now plays an important role in the realm of molecular biology for making sense of DNA rearrangements.

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