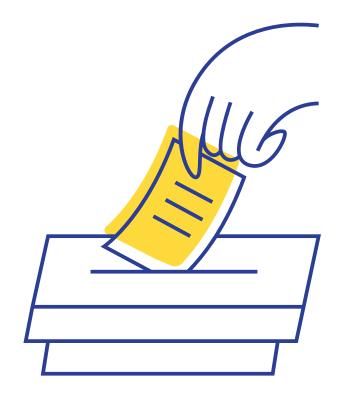# MSCS
COLLOQUIUM:

Our Speaker:
STEVEN MCKELVEY

MSCS EMERITUS
OF ST. OLAF COLLEGE

ONE PERSON, ONE VOTING: THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE, GERRYMANDERING AND THE MATHEMATICS OF OPTIMIZATION

Monday, November 4, 2024 | 3:30PM

Recently retired St. Olaf mathematics professor with research interests in applied mathematics broadly, and optimization theory in particular. I am presently working as an election judge in the Rice County elections office preparing things for November 5th.

In the days before the upcoming general election, and certainly in the days following it, the Electoral College which actually elects US Presidents will be in the news. Along with commentary on the Electoral College will be energetic discussions surrounding the practice of gerrymandering in which a political party can achieve legislative power far beyond the party's ability to gather votes in an election.

In this stridently non-partisan talk, I will use mathematical analysis to illustrate how both the Electoral College and gerrymandering can distort political systems. In addition to discussing illustrative worst-case scenarios, I will bring things closer to home using real data from our local county, Rice County, to show how the clever use of mathematics can help your favorite political party, whichever party that is.

JOIN US AT 3:30PM ON MONDAY, NOV 4TH   **RNS 210**