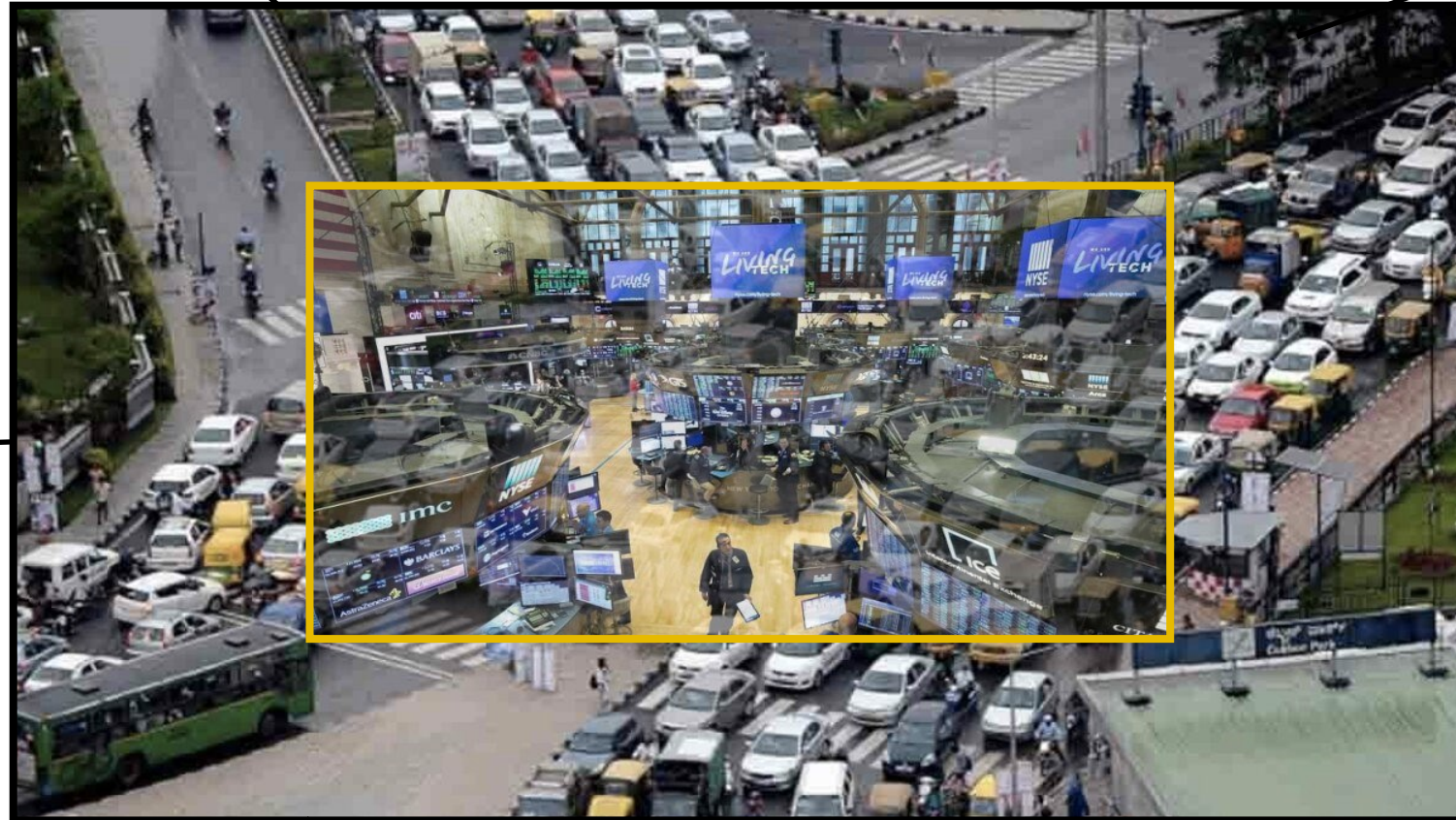


**MSCS COLLOQUIUM - MONDAY FEBRUARY 20 -
3:30 pm - RNS 310**

**Steve McKelvey, St. Olaf Professor of
Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science**

***Applied
Mathematics
and Bad
Intuition:
Two
Examples***



One of the fun things about studying applied mathematics is finding examples where mathematics reveals that the real world doesn't behave the way we imagine. Such examples show both the necessity and power of studying applied mathematics.

Example 1: The world of Wall Street and high finance, where mathematicians known as “quants” have revolutionized the world of investing. Woe be to the investor who lacks mathematical sophistication.

Example 2: Involves spending millions or billions of dollars on transportation infrastructure. As this example shows, spending money in the “obvious” way can make matters worse.