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BI-CO MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM

Brandis Whitfield

Temple University

"An Invitation to Mapping Class Groups and Low-dimensional Topology and Geometry"

Monday, October 30, 2023
Talk at 4:30 - Hilles 109
Tea at 4:00 – Foyer outside of Hilles 109

Abstract:

In this talk we'll give an introduction to low-dimensional topology and geometry, and the theory of mapping class groups.

We'll explore how to use surfaces to construct three-manifolds, and how the symmetries of the surface determine geometric information of the manifold. If time allows, we'll discuss how these ideas extend to the theory of *big* mapping class groups and infinite-type surfaces.

The talk is intended for a wide audience, particularly undergraduate students, and will be filled with pictures to illustrate the theory.

HAVERFORD COLLEGE