

B I - C O M A T H E M A T I C S C O L L O Q U I U M

Mathematics Awareness Month Keynote Speaker

David Kung
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“Closer to Fair: Mathematics and Social Justice”

Monday, April 1, 2013

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

Abstract:

The world is an unfair, unjust place - and without some changes, our current path is unsustainable. What can we in academia do about it? This talk will focus on two specific ways mathematicians have worked to address issues of social justice both in our classrooms and in our world. The first half of the talk will focus on the inequalities that pervade mathematics and science classrooms. One particularly successful model of addressing these issues at the college level is the Emerging Scholars Program, with a 30 year record of helping underrepresented students excel in mathematics. Raising awareness of social justice issues outside of the classroom, a group of mathematicians teach courses that ask students to use the tools of mathematics to study, understand, and even address issues ranging from economic inequity to environmental impacts. The second half of the talk will discuss this "Mathematics for Social Justice" movement, along with examples of the types of topics and questions addressed.

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