

Undergraduate Colloquium

Panorama of Geometry and Topology #8

March 28 Thursday
5-6 PM MLH 110

Speaker: Dr. Joseph Breen (U Iowa)



Figure skating, hovercrafts, and contact topology

Abstract: I study an area of math called contact topology, which unites many things that otherwise seem distinct: figure skating, thermodynamics, good old-fashioned knot theory, and futuristic hovercraft Olympics. In this talk, we will explore some of these connections to learn about contact topology, and I will hint at my own research. Not much math background is required, beyond some familiarity with calculus. Even if you know some contact topology already, some of the topics may be unfamiliar and interesting.

Pizza and refreshments will be served

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