BI-CO MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM

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"Classic Problems"

Monday, March 28, 2022
Talk at 4:00 – Hilles 109
Zoom Link:
https://haverford.zoom.us/j/96428641238
Meeting ID: 964 2864 1238
Passcode: 657933

Abstract:

The Problems Section of the American Mathematical Monthly has launched this year a new subsection called "Classics", in which we reprint beautiful or delightful mathematical gems. This subsection will feature problems that are not new but deserve to be better known. So what is a classic? What is a gem? What is a chestnut? Trying to explain what makes a problem beautiful is like trying to explain what makes a joke humorous. It's not so easy to explain, but you know it when you see it. It can be a surprising problem statement, or a surprising answer, or a surprising idea in the proof. Here I'll offer several of my favorites. The talk will be pitched at a broad mathematical audience, most certainly including undergraduates.

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