Special Colloquium

Dr. Peter Kagey

Harvey Mudd College

Mathematical Art and Recreation

Abstract: Recreational Mathematics is an area of math which is rooted in exploration and playfulness, and includes puzzles, games, art, and more. This talk takes a closer look at these ideas, emphasizing how a foundation of curiosity and play can lead to insightful connections with various branches of mathematics, fostering a deeper appreciation for both the beauty and the enjoyment inherent in mathematics. Illustrating this, I will describe how a question about tiling and a question from Martin Gardner ultimately led to theorems in group theory and combinatorics, demonstrating the unexpected bridges that can be built between recreational puzzles and deeper mathematical concepts.

Keywords: Group Theory, Burnside's Lemma, Combinatorics, Tilings, Recreational Math, Mathematical Art.

Monday, Feb. 12, 1:05 – 1:50 pm in 5-125

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