MATH and PIZZA How Always to Win at Limbo

or

You can sum some of the series some of the time, and some of the series none of the time ... but can you sum some of the series ALL of the time?"

Ed Burger

Professor of Mathematics and Gaudino Scholar Williams College

Sponsored by

College of A&S and Department of Mathematics

Date: Thursday, April 1, 2010 Time: 4:00pm - 5:00pm Room: 110, Classroom Building



All students with an interest in Mathematics are welcome to attend !! Abstract: Remember in your days of first-love how you would dream about that special someone and wonder to yourself: "How close are we?"

This presentation will answer that question by answering: What does it mean for two things to be close to one another? We'll take a strange look at infinite series, dare to mention a calculus student's fantasy, and momentarily engage in transcendental meditation. In fact, we'll even attempt to build some very exotic series that can be used if you ever have to flee the country in a hurry: we'll either succeed or fail... you'll have to come to the lecture to find out. Will you be at the edge of your seats? Perhaps; but if not, then you'll probably fall asleep and either way, after the talk, you'll feel refreshed. No matter what, you'll learn a sneaky way to always win at Limbo.

This presentation is open to all math fans--young and old alike. A familiarity with infinite series is helpful. If you've ever head of the words "triangle inequality", then this is the colloquium for you!

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