



**Department of Mathematics and Statistics**

**COLLOQUIUM**

**Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

4:00 – 5:00 pm, Adel Mathematics Bldg., Room 164  
(refreshments at 3:45)

**Jeffrey Bennett**

## **Mathematics for Life: Are You Teaching Students What They Really Need?**

**Abstract:** How can we solve the national debt crisis? Is it a good idea to take on a student loan? Is it safe to talk on a cell phone while driving? Are there viable energy alternatives to fossil fuels? What could you do with a billion dollars? Could simple policy changes reduce political polarization? These questions may seem very different, but they all share two things in common. First, they all concern important topics that can be understood only with clear quantitative or mathematical thinking. Second, they are all topics that, at least traditionally, have been noticeably absent from the standard mathematics curriculum. This presentation will offer a series of examples of this disconnect, along with suggestions on how to rectify it and improve mathematics education. Note: This presentation is based on my book *Math For Life* ([www.math-for-life.com](http://www.math-for-life.com)).

Algebra Combinatorics Geometry and Topology (ACGT) Seminar meets Tuesdays, 12:45 – 2:00 pm, AMB 164.

Steve Wilson will continue speaking for the next several meetings.

Applied Math Seminar (AMS) meets Thursdays 12:45 – 1:45 pm, AMB 164.

Friday Afternoon Undergraduate Mathematics Seminar (FAMUS) meets Fridays, 3pm, AMB 164.