



## Department of Mathematics and Statistics

### COLLOQUIUM

Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017

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

William Schulz

NAU, Retired

### Some Interesting Mathematics from History

**Abstract:** This talk will discuss the earliest history of Science and Math in Miletos on the west coast of Asia Minor. We recap what was original at this time and how it spread from Miletos, and the controversies it generated. We will review Pythagoras' contributions and the role Plato played in one of the strangest episodes in the history of Mathematics, when looked at from a certain point of view.

Next we discuss the decline of Greek Science and Math and the fate of the first notable female mathematician. From there we talk about the surprising discovery of Poggio Bracciolini about 1480 which was very influential in the rebirth of Science in the renaissance.

Next we will look at the subsequent history of some very old ideas that have impacted Mathematics again and will surely greatly impact its future, if some of the current speculations of physics work out well. Graph theory, once described by Paul Halmos as women's Mathematics, may have an awesome future importance.

If time permits, I will talk about some unrelated interesting historical incidents which are often left out of standard histories of mathematics. What career did Gauss's youngest son pursue?

Algebra Combinatorics Geometry and Topology (ACGT) Seminar meets every Tuesday, 12:45 – 1:45 pm, AMB 146.

Applied Math Seminar (AMS) meets every Thursday, 12:45 – 1:45 pm, AMB 146.  
April 6<sup>th</sup> date open for a volunteer!

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