

Undergraduate Mathematics Colloquium

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“The lantern relation on a surface”

Friday April 7

Talk at 4:00 in Herman Brown 227

Tea at 3:30 in Herman Brown 438

ABSTRACT: Ancient humans supposed that the world was flat, when we know today that it is spherical. But how confident should we be of this fact? Questions like this lead to the study of surfaces, which are geometric objects that, to any resident with short-sighted vision, look like a flat plane. Surfaces are fundamental objects of study throughout mathematics and physics. In this talk, we will explore some interesting applications of these two-dimensional creatures, and see how we can (and why we should!) study their symmetries. In particular, we will demonstrate a quirk of these symmetries called the ‘lantern relation’.

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