

# **Undergraduate Mathematics Colloquium**

**Michael Wolf**  
Rice University

**“Geometric optimization:  
An exploration through soap films”**

**Friday August 24**

Talk at 4:00 in Herman Brown 227

Tea & cookies at 3:30 in Herman Brown 438

Pizza after the talk

**ABSTRACT:**

Nature exhibits a tremendous variety of shapes, the selection of which we can attribute to a drive towards optimizing function. We explore some of the mathematics behind this geometry of the natural world through a discussion and experimentation with soap films, in which a number of quite subtle principles may be observed.

**Rice University Department of Mathematics**