Colloquium

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NEEDLES, BUSHES, HAIRBRUSHES, AND POLYNOMIALS

Friday, December 11, 2015
3:00 p.m. in ES-143
(tea & coffee at 2:30 p.m. in ES-152)

Abstract. Points, lines, and circles are among the most primitive and fundamental of mathematical concepts, yet few geometric objects have generated more beautiful and nontrivial mathematics. Deceptively simple in their formulation, many classical problems involving sets of lines or circles remain open to this day. I will begin with a sample of problems that has spearheaded much of modern research, and explore their connections with analysis, geometry, and combinatorics.