

Department of Mathematics and Statistics

The Kaori Kitao Lecture

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Turning Knots into Flowers: Undergraduate Research

Abstract: Knot theory provides fertile ground for undergraduate research. There are pretty pictures, students can work on explicit examples immediately, and there is deep and beautiful mathematics embedded in the subject. In this talk, we will see how one can generalize the concept of crossing number of knots to obtain a bucketful of open questions, many of which have been answered by undergraduates. Moreover, we can define petal number (least number of petals in a flower-like diagram that represents the knot) and come up with many more fascinating questions.

Tuesday, March 27th Science Center 199

Refreshments 4:15pm, Lecture 4:30pm