

COLLOQUIUM TALK

Sam Nelson (Claremont McKenna College)

Friday, October 9, 4:00 p.m., Room TBA

Title: The Combinatorial Revolution in Knot Theory

Abstract: Much as our concept of 'number' has evolved over time, what we mean by 'knots' has recently undergone its own evolutionary generalization. We will explore new types of generalized knots including virtual knots, singular knots, flat virtual knots and more. These new knot types motivate related algebraic structures such as kei, quandles, racks and biquandles. This talk is based on an article scheduled to appear in Notices of the AMS in 2010.