

2004 Kieval Lecture Series Talks
Featuring
Underwood Dudley
from
DePauw University

Thursday, May 6, 2004, 10:00 a.m. in Central 219
"Angle Trisectors"

Although it was proved in 1837 that it is impossible to trisect angles with straightedge and compass alone, people will not stop trying to do it. This talk surveys trisections, both right and wrong, and contains practical advice on what to do when confronted with a trisector.

Friday, May 7, 2004, 10:00 a.m. in Taylor 128
"Formulas for Primes"

Formulas are fascinating and so are primes, so formulas for primes should be doubly fascinating. This talk gives a survey of the field and contains two moral messages, one of which is that not all formulas are equally good. Exactly one theorem will be proved.

Friday, May 7, 2004, 3:00 p.m. in Science 118
"Why Learn Mathematics?"

In the United States today we have something never before seen in the world: almost universal mathematics education. Many states now include algebra questions on those tests that all students must pass in order to graduate from high school, so everyone has to try to learn algebra. Why do we do this? Is it because people need algebra on the job? Is it because everyone needs algebra to function adequately in everyday life? I assert that the answers to those last two questions are "No" and "No", and I will give the right answer.