UW-L Mathematics Department
Undergraduate Colloquium Series

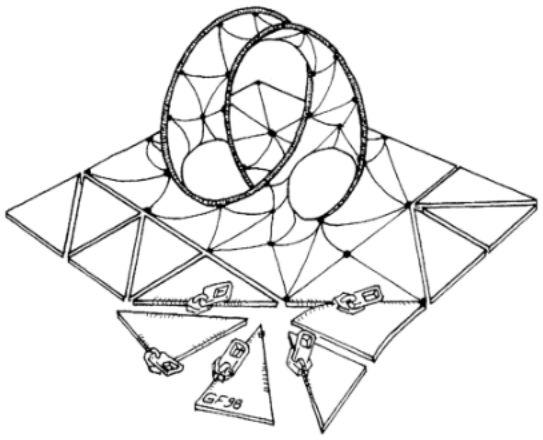
The Classification of Surfaces

Isaac Craig and Tony Riemer
Mathematics Students, UW-La Crosse

Surfaces appear in a variety of different forms throughout the universe: from the surface of your heart to the surface of the moon or even in the spaceship to get you to the moon. Surfaces are studied in mathematics (multivariable calculus, complex analysis, geometry, topology, etc) and are used in other areas of science such as physics, biology, chemistry, and engineering.

We will present a classical theorem from geometric topology which helps us understand the vast and crazy types of surfaces that can exist. This theorem states that all surfaces, no matter the size, shape, or origin, are all equivalent, topologically speaking, to a certain number of spheres with handles or cross caps.

The main (potentially mathematical) prerequisite for this talk is Curiosity. Come one, come all!



Thursday, December 3rd
Time: 3:30-4:30pm

All Welcome to Attend
Cowley Hall 156

Find us on: facebook UW—La Crosse Mathematics