

Bi-State Math Colloquium

Who: Jon Rogness, University of Minnesota

When: Tuesday, October 22, 4:00 pm (note non-standard day)

Where: Ottensman 122, UW-Platteville

Spherical Cats and Ham Sandwiches An Introduction to Topology

This talk will explore topology, an area of mathematics where circles are squares and a donut is the same as a coffee cup. We'll cover some of the basic ideas and see examples of how topology applies in every-day life. Along the way you'll learn about one-sided surfaces, subway maps, and a theorem which has amazing consequences ranging from meteorology to ham sandwiches. We'll also learn what Topology can tell us about the shape of our universe, and experience 3D flythroughs of various models of the universe.

Jon Rogness is an assistant professor of mathematics at the University of Minnesota. A topologist by training, he has become well-known for his mathematical visualizations for use in and outside of the classroom. He serves as Director of the university's Mathematics Center for Educational Programs (MathCEP), which runs one of the nation's premier accelerated mathematics programs for middle- and high-school students. Jon is a former Fulbright fellow, a talented singer and pianist, and a past captain of the Pillage People, the ultimate frisbee club of Augustana College (SD).