Bi-State Math Colloquium

Who: James Swenson
When: Thursday, September 28, 4:00 pm
Where: Ottensman 122, UW-Platteville

Hackenbush and the Surreal Numbers

In the game of Hackenbush, two players (Blue and Red) take turns deleting edges from a graph: the first one who can't make a legal move loses. Some graphs are better starting positions for Blue than others. Starting from this rather obvious insight, we create a surreal universe that contains all numbers large and small. (Thanks to Prof. Attenborough for pointing out that the title of this talk would also make a great name for a band.)

James Swenson is in his thirteenth year at UW-Platteville. He earned the Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities), studying algebraic topology under the direction of Mark Feshbach. In his spare time, Dr. Swenson sings in one choir and directs another; he also reads a lot, and is getting into the roleplaying game Pathfinder. Dr. Swenson has an above-average number of ears.