

## Math Colloquium @ Bryn Mawr: "Counting by Climbing"

November 28, 2011 4:00PM–5:00PM

Bryn Mawr. Park Science 328.

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Tim DeVries (Haverford College). Park 328.

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### Description

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Bi-College Math Colloquium

Counting by Climbing

Tim DeVries, Haverford College

Talk at 4:00 in Park Science 328.

Tea at 3:45 in the Math Lounge, Park 355.

Abstract:

Meet John Q. Combinatorialist. As a student of enumerative combinatorics, John enjoys spending long periods of isolation counting trees, paths and other discrete structures. After one particularly long stretch of isolation, John emerged from his den shouting "Eureka! I've successfully programmed my explorer bots to climb alien mountains on exotic planets in a five-dimensional universe! The findings they report solve a ton of combinatorial problems."

No, John has not lost his mind. In this talk we will discuss John's algorithm for climbing these "alien mountains" – certain one-dimensional complex algebraic varieties. More importantly, we will see a surprising connection between this geometric/topological exploration and a class of problems in combinatorial enumeration.

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### For More Info

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