

# BI-CO MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM

Patricia Cahn  
University of Pennsylvania

“Counting Crossings of Curves on Surfaces”

**Monday, October 29, 2012**

Talk at 4:00 – E309

Tea at 3:00 – KINSC Math Lounge, H208

**Abstract:**

In this talk, we'll discuss a surprising connection between algebra, topology, and geometry. Our goal is to count intersection and self-intersection numbers of curves on surfaces. We will see how to do this using certain algebraic structures called Lie algebras, which are vector spaces with some additional properties.

**HVERFORD COLLEGE**