

BI-CO MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM

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“The Mathematics of Good Will Hunting”

Monday, September 23, 2013

Talk at 4:00 – H109

Tea at 3:30 – KINSC Math Lounge, H208

Abstract:

In the 1997 movie "Good Will Hunting" one math problem catapulted the main character into the mathematical limelight thus setting the stage for the entire film. The problem, posed by a fictional MIT professor, combines elementary graph theory, linear algebra and some basic calculus in a fascinating way. In this talk we will examine the problem scrawled on a hallway blackboard at MIT and see if the movie consultants earned their fee by providing Matt Damon with a correct solution!

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