

BI-CO MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM

Benjamin J. Galluzzo

Shippensburg University

*“If Math (Modeling) is the Answer,
What’s the Question?”*

Monday, February 23, 2015

Talk at 4:00 – Park 338

Tea at 3:30 – Park 355, Math Lounge

Abstract:

Do the Math. This phrase frequently serves as the justification for making a statement on a controversial or provocative topic of general interest such as epidemiology, economics or environmental sustainability. While a numerical result is often part of the argument, far less common is a discussion of the factors accounted for in the decision making process and in particular, the specific question under consideration.

In this talk I will share my experience with parsing “big” real world questions into manageable formats appropriate for use in mathematical modeling competitions and in mathematics classrooms across the curriculum. In doing so, we will explore how the interplay between question and solution can lead to meaningful results.

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