



CLAREMONT CENTER for  
the MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

CCMS COLLOQUIUM

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REFLEXIVE POLYGONS, COMPLEX TORI,  
AND ELLIPTIC CURVES

by

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**ABSTRACT**

We'll start by investigating the combinatorial properties of certain special pairs of polygons defined on a planar lattice. By reinterpreting these, after Isaac Newton, we will relate them to algebraic equations. The variables in the algebraic equations are naturally complex numbers and they describe a "complex torus". The vanishing loci of the algebraic equations are elliptic curves, whose basic geometric and topological properties we will discuss. If time permits, we may also describe an application to string theory.

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**Wednesday, November 4, 2009, at 4:15pm**

Millikan 134, Pomona College

**Refreshments served at 3:45 p.m.**

Harry Mullikin Room, Millikan 209

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*The dinner will be hosted by Prof. Ursula Whitcher  
If interested in attending, call ext. 72844*