Second Annual
Baylor Lecture Series in Mathematics

Wednesday, September 24, 2008 • 3:30 p.m.
Baylor Science Building – D109
Baylor University
Waco, Texas

Flatland: A Great Place to Do Algebra

We will explain a new kind of algebra, based on pictures in the plane, that would have gladdened the heart of Edwin A. Abbott, the author of “Flatland”, a book we will use as a starting point for the talk. We will see how this algebra appears in various guises, from knot theory to statistical mechanics and quantum computation. The talk will be enriched by various anecdotes.