Prof. James B. Wilson
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“Not one Knot: a story about groups and how we use them.”

Abstract:
In 1914 Dehn proved that the two most basic knots, the left and right trefoil knots, are not the same. Although the problem appears to be about shapes, the proof relies on a far more abstract question: when are two groups the same? In the last century a great number of similar applications to group theory have emerged. But the issue of understanding isomorphisms of groups remains unresolved. In this talk we will visit Dehn's problem, see examples of what it looks like today, and show the history of advances in isomorphism. We will conclude with the promising recent breakthroughs.

Friday, October 18, 2013
3:00 PM in 372 Jabara Hall

Please come join us for refreshments before the lecture at 2:30 p.m. in room 353 Jabara Hall.