The Ivan and Betty Niven Distinguished Lectures

University of British Columbia

March 5 - 6, 2007

The UBC Department of Mathematics is proud to present a series of lectures on Number Theory presented by Fernando Rodríguez-Villegas of the University of Texas at Austin.



These lecture series were made possible through a generous bequest received from Ivan and Betty Niven.

In honor of their generous support, the Department of Mathematics has established a permanent endowment fund, "The Ivan and Betty Niven Distinguished Lectures Fund", the income from which will fund a series of annual lectures on a broad array of topics in Mathematics.





Student Lecture Tuesday, March 6, 3:30-4:30, MATH 203

Puzzles and groups

In this talk I will discuss several puzzles (15-puzzle, lights-out, Rubik's cube, Blet, etc.) and how they are related to group theory. We will see how group theory can give important insights into the structure of the puzzles and, in some cases, provides a complete solution.

Refreshments, 4:30, MATX 1115





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