Unravel It with Math

G. Milton Wing Lecture Series
April 2016

WITH GUEST LECTURER Donald Saari
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It’s an Election Year!
But Will Voters Elect Whom They Want?

Public Lecture
Tuesday, April 19, 5–6:15 p.m.
Goergen Hall, Room 101

A contentious election year! But will the outcomes reflect what the voters really want? Is the Oscar winner who the voters really preferred? Surprisingly, mathematics is proving that the way in which the ballots are tallied makes a significant difference in the outcome. So, does a surprise Grammy winner reflect the voters’ intent—or the choice of the voting rule? In this public lecture, where only the ability to count is needed, it is shown how mathematics is explaining many paradoxical election outcomes. Be prepared to leave worried about the last election of importance to you.

Mathematics and the Dark Matter Mystery

Wednesday, April 20, 5–6:15 p.m.
Hylan Hall, Room 202

One of the more compelling scientific mysteries is the astronomy puzzle of dark matter. Although there is a reasonable amount of circumstantial evidence that this material exists, it has yet to be found. As described in this lecture, much of the analysis must come from mathematics. Arguments coming from celestial mechanics will raise doubts about one of the standard arguments.