



The Allegheny College Mathematics Department
Presents Guest Speaker

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Learning to Love the Dedekind Move

Henderson Auditorium, Quigley Hall
Allegheny College
Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 4pm



Abstract: Richard Dedekind repeatedly used an inspired intellectual move: faced with an entity he wanted to define precisely, he found a set that completely determined that entity and then defined the entity to be that set. Dedekind used this move several times, and it has since become commonplace. Learning to use it is one of the more difficult and important hurdles for any undergraduate mathematics student. This talk will explain the move and explore some of the things Dedekind did with it. We will also ponder whether we should love it or hate it.

Refreshments will be available after the talk.

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For more information, contact Harald Ellers at hellers@allegheny.edu.

