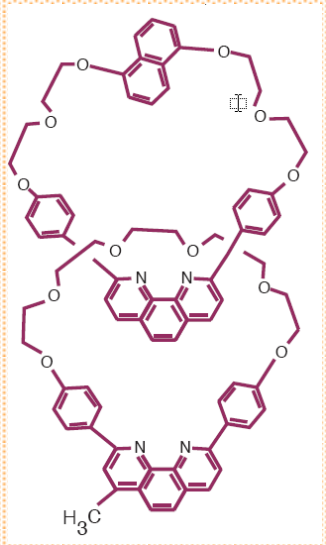
The Allegheny College Mathematics Department

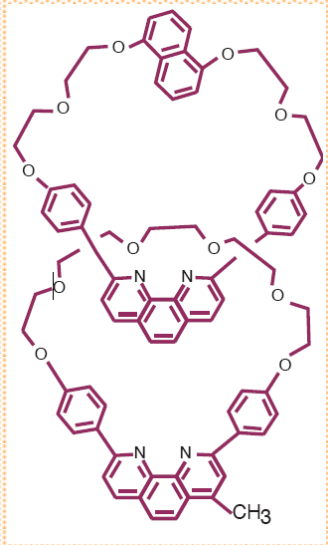
Presents

Guest Speaker



Erica Flapan

Professor of Mathematics
Pomona College



Introduction to Topological Chirality

Henderson Auditorium, Quigley Hall
Allegheny College
Thursday, January 15th, 2008 at 4pm

Abstract: Symmetry plays an important role in predicting the behavior of molecules. A particular type of symmetry that is chemically important is mirror image symmetry. A molecule is said to be *chiral* if it cannot change into its mirror image. In this talk we will explain why chirality is important, discuss the differences between chemical, geometric, topological, and intrinsic chirality, and introduce various topological techniques to show that a molecule is topologically chiral. No mathematical or chemistry background will be assumed.

Refreshments will be available after the talk.

Sponsored by the Department of Mathematics.
Funded by The Leila W. Parsons Memorial Lectureship in Mathematics Fund and the William Beazell Memorial Fund. For more information, contact Rachel Weir at rweir@allegheny.edu.