The Allegheny College Mathematics Department
Presents Guest Speaker

Jennifer Quinn

Professor of Mathematics, University of Washington, Tacoma

Mathematics to DIE for:
The battle between counting and matching

Henderson Auditorium, Quigley Hall
Allegheny College
Thursday, February 27, 2014, 4:00 pm

Positive sums count. Alternating sums match. So which is "easier" to consider mathematically? This talk is one part performance art and three parts combinatorics. The audience will judge a combinatorial competition between the competing techniques. Be prepared to explore a variety of positive and alternating sums involving binomial coefficients, Fibonacci numbers, and other beautiful combinatorial quantities. How are the terms in each sum concretely interpreted? What is being counted? What is being matched? Do alternating sums always give simpler results? You decide.

Refreshments will be available after the talk.

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