



University of Connecticut

Neag School of Education & College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Center for Research in Mathematics Education

Spring 2011 Speaker Series in Mathematics Education

The Center for Research in Mathematics Education, the Department of Mathematics, and Teachers for a New Era at the University of Connecticut proudly announce



Robert L. Devaney

February 17, 2011 at 4:30 pm

Conference Room PBB 131 (Pharmacy/Biology Building)
UConn, Storrs

“Chaos and Fractals: Exciting Students About Mathematics”

One of the things that bother me about teaching mathematics is the fact that very few students ever get to see what's new and exciting in mathematics. What do we show them in their twelve years before college (and often their four years in college)? We teach them 4th century BC geometry, 11th century algebra, and, if they are really good and motivated, some 17th century calculus. Unlike the other fields in science and engineering, where everyone knows that interesting and important things are going on, our students rarely get that impression about mathematics.

One of my goals over the past twenty years has been to change this mindset. There are plenty of ways to insert contemporary topics in math into the standard curriculum. In this lecture, I will give one such example, namely, how chaos games and fractal images provide a wonderful opportunity to blend together various ideas from middle and high school mathematics. This is a talk I routinely give to students at this grade level, so don't worry about the mathematical level!

Robert L. Devaney is Professor of Mathematics at Boston University. He is the author of over one hundred research papers in the field of dynamical systems as well as a dozen pedagogical papers in this field. He is also the (co)-author or editor of thirteen books in this area of mathematics. He has received numerous national honors for excellence in teaching such as, the Award for Distinguished University Teaching from the Northeastern section of the Mathematical Association of America, the Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished University Teaching, the National Science Foundation Director's Award for Distinguished Teaching Scholars, the ICTCM Award for Excellence and Innovation with the Use of Technology in Collegiate Mathematics, among others. In 2010 he was named the Feld Family Professor of Teaching Excellence at Boston University.

All are welcome to this FREE event!

Questions? Please contact Fabiana.Cardetti@uconn.edu