

SEMINAR SERIES

Thinking Deeply of Simple Things

Dr. Mark Saul
American Institute of Mathematics
San Jose, CA, USA

Date and Time: [Friday, 31 March 2017, 4:30pm – 5:30pm](#)

Venue: Room Y6405, City University of Hong Kong

Reception starts at 4:15pm

(Language: **English**)

Abstract

There is a unity to mathematics. Every small fragment of the subject betrays the structure of the whole. We can introduce students to profound concepts using simple games and problems. Some of these activities don't look like mathematics until the students engage, and the engagement comes readily and effortlessly. We will discuss activities that can be started with students in elementary school, continued through middle and high school, and end up as significant concepts in undergraduate and even graduate mathematics.

About the Speaker

Dr. Mark Saul is the Executive Director of the Julia Robinson Math Festival (JRMF), a program of the American Institute of Mathematics. The JRMF runs non-competitive after-school events in which students engage cooperatively in solving non-standard mathematical problems and activities. The festivals have reached thousands of students in 25 states and 6 foreign countries. Before this, Dr. Saul has worked as Director of Competitions for the Mathematical Association of America and directed the Center for Mathematical Talent at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University. Dr. Saul has been a senior scholar for the John Templeton Foundation and a program officer for the National Science Foundation. His portfolio included programs in mathematics curriculum, in teacher professional development, and the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. He is a 1984 recipient of that award.

Dr. Saul has served as President of the American Regions Mathematics League, mathematics field editor of *Quantum* (the English-language version of the Russian journal *Kvant*), a board member of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and a member of the Mathematical Sciences Education Board for the National Research Council. He has written, translated, or edited twelve books and numerous articles. His most recent volume, written with Titu Andreescu for the American Mathematical Society, is about algebraic inequalities, leading students from very ordinary classroom fare to Olympiad-level problems in incremental steps.

This interactive seminar is open to secondary school students and teachers.

Chair: Dr. Chee Wei Tan (algebrachallenge@gmail.com)