Mathematical Games in Multiple Levels of Education

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1:00 pm in Derrick Hall 238
10 March 2017

Abstract: By presenting students with fun situations like combinatorial games, in which the mathematics used to solve problems arises naturally, it may be possible to improve some people's views of mathematics and their motivation to learn. In this talk, I will introduce a few games, each of which can be used at a variety of levels in order to teach different concepts. I will then discuss their strategies, some differences and commonalities between elementary students and college students, and what can be learned from these efforts.

Debbie Seacrest earned her Bachelor's degree in Mathematics at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, CA and her Master's in Mathematics and PhD in Mathematics Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is now Assistant Professor of Mathematics at The University of Montana Western in Dillon, MT. Debbie works to use combinatorial and other mathematical games as a teaching tool to let students discover mathematical ideas organically.