

A FOCUS on MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM

Great Issues of Our Time: The Quadratic Formula

Presented by:

William McCallum,
Mathematics Professor
University of Arizona

Date:

December 7, 2005

Place:

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

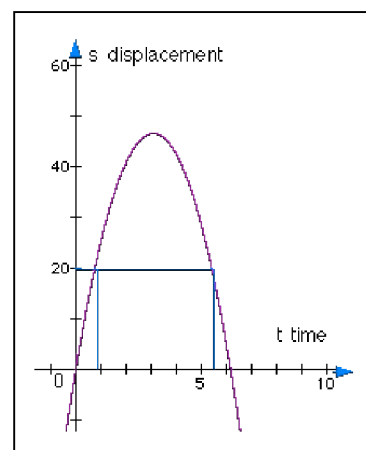
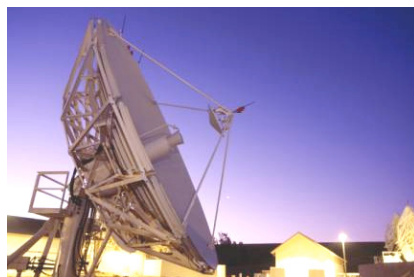
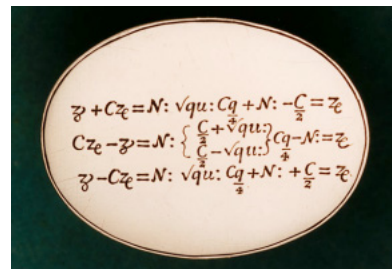
**8 St. Mary's Street
Photonics Building
Room: PHO 211**

Time:

4:30-5:30 PM

On June 21, William McCallum was named by the National Science Foundation as a Distinguished Teaching Scholar, an award honoring scholars who have achieved success in both research and teaching, and who have successfully integrated the two.

NSF reports that "His new work will focus on better communication among mathematicians, teachers and math education researchers in a systematic content analysis of problems in algebraic thinking that should lead to new instructional materials for a broad range of students."



On 26 July 2003, culminating millennia of human endeavor, the British House of Commons debated one of the fundamental issues of our time: how do you solve quadratic equations and why should you bother? The quadratic formula has occupied some of the greatest mathematical minds in human history, including the Arab mathematician al-Khwarizmi, from whose name the word algorithm derives. These days we live in a sea of algorithms; quadratic equations can be solved by cell phones, web sites, and occasionally even by people. Is the quadratic formula obsolete? What lessons does it have to offer for humankind? These and other questions will be answered.



**Reception to follow in the Photonics Atrium, 2nd Floor
from 5:30 - 6:30 PM**



RSVP by December 2, 2005

Please let us know if you plan to attend!

Contact Karina Dymina: karina@focusonmath.org

For directions and info, please visit: www.focusonmath.org



Focus on Mathematics is a unique partnership of mathematicians and educators from Boston University, Education Development Center, Inc., Worcester Polytechnic Institute, UMass Lowell, Lesley University, and five Greater Boston school districts: Arlington, Chelsea, Lawrence, Waltham, and Watertown.



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