



**Department of Mathematics and Statistics**

**COLLOQUIUM**

**Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**

4:00 – 5:00 pm, Adel Mathematics Bldg., Room 164  
(refreshments at 3:45)

**Michael Falk**

**NAU**

**Milnor fibers of arrangements**

Abstract: We describe the main ideas involved in a recent proof of an old conjecture, that the first betti number of a certain affine variety associated with an arrangement of hyperplanes can be computed from combinatorial data. The focus will be on some of the geometric tools, namely, good compactifications of algebraic surfaces, Hodge theory, circle actions on three-manifolds, and plumbing, as time permits.

Algebra Combinatorics Geometry and Topology (ACGT) Seminar meets Tuesdays, 12:45 – 2:00 pm, AMB 164.  
Applied Math Seminar (AMS) meets Thursdays 12:45 – 1:45 pm, AMB 164. Schoonover is scheduled to speak about his graduate research with Blows Thursday March 24<sup>th</sup>.  
Friday Afternoon Undergraduate Mathematics Seminar (FAMUS) meets Fridays, 3pm, AMB 164.