

VCU Discrete Mathematics Seminar

Commutativity and collinearity: From Diophantus to Pappus via Hilbert

**Prof Adrian Rice
(Randolph-Macon College)**

Wednesday, Sept. 11
1:00-1:50 EDT

In person! in 4145 Harris Hall, and Zoom @

<https://vcu.zoom.us/j/92975799914>
password=graphs2357



This talk investigates the chain of mathematical and historical events that led to the discovery of an intriguing and remarkable connection between two seemingly distinct areas of mathematics—a link that had gone unnoticed for over 1500 years. It encompasses number theory, algebra, combinatorics, and projective geometry, and includes contributions from mathematicians of all kinds, from the most distinguished to the relatively unknown.

Adrian Rice is the Dorothy and Muscoe Garnett Professor of Mathematics at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia, where his research focuses on 19th- and early 20th-century British mathematics. In addition to papers on various aspects of the history of mathematics, his books include *Mathematics Unbound: The Evolution of an International Mathematical Research Community, 1800–1945* (with Karen Hunger Parshall), *Mathematics in Victorian Britain* (with Raymond Flood and Robin Wilson), and *Ada Lovelace: The Making of a Computer Scientist* (with Christopher Hollings and Ursula Martin). He is a five-time recipient of awards for outstanding expository writing from the Mathematical Association of America, and in 2021 he was awarded the Catherine Richards Prize by the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications.

For the DM seminar schedule, see:

<https://go.vcu.edu/discrete>