

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

THE MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM

presents

Dr. Hugh Howards

Wake Forest University

speaking on

The Trouble with Brunnian Links

Friday, March 4, 2005

12:00PM-1:00PM

LA5-267

Abstract: A Brunnian link is a link – not the unlink – with $n > 2$ components where every sub-link is the unlink. Freedman proved that no Brunnian link could be made out of circles. We will generalize this to show that the Borromean Rings are the only Brunnian link of less than 4 components that can be made out of convex curves. We will also generalize Freedman's results to higher dimensions. No background in knot theory or topology is necessary for the talk.