

# Department of Mathematical Sciences

## Seminar Announcement

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**Tom Plante**

**Math Major**

### **On the Quadrature of the Parabola**

Thursday, April 9, 2009

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2:45 – 3:45 PM

Brown Hall – Room 127

The parabola is a well-known shape with many interesting properties. The goal of the talk will be showing several less familiar properties of parabolas that help describe its geometry. First we will show that the three most common definitions of the parabola are equivalent and that like circles, all parabolas are similar. By the end of the talk we will show ways in which a segment of a parabola is like a triangle and use integral calculus to show that equations for area and volume boil down to general base-times-height relations.