R|T|G
Logic and Dynamics

UNDERGRADUATE **M**ATHEMATICS **R**ESEARCH **C**OLLOQUIUM SERIES

Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013

5:00-6:00 PM

General Academic Building, Room 105

A pre-lecture reception with cookies, coffee and tea will be held at 4:30 PM in the General Academic Building, Room 472.

The *RTG in Logic & Dynamics* is a research training group supported by the National Science Foundation and the University of North Texas.

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MARK POLLICOTT
UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

THE CIRCLES OF APOLLONIUS

Over two thousand years ago, the Greek mathematician Apollonius began the mathematical study of families of circles which are mutually tangent. Repeating his construction leads to the Apollonian circle packing, one of the first examples of a fractal set. More recently, they have been the subject of renewed interest by Nobel laureates and lesser mortals, but many intriguing questions remain.

Mark Pollicott was born in England, where his family name derives from a small village in Buckinghamshire named in the Domesday book of 1086. He completed his BSc and PhD at the University of Warwick, where he is now a professor. He has also been the Fielden professor at the University of Manchester, a chair first established for the American mathematician Louis Mordell. Professor Pollicott now lives in Kenilworth, a town better known for its 12th-century ruined castle.