



# COLLOQUIUM

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**Associahedra, Zonotopes, and some new versions of both**

**Thursday Feb. 5th at 2:00pm in RT 1516**

*Bio:* Dr. Stefan Forcey is a Professor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Akron. He earned his Ph.D. at Virginia Tech under the direction of Frank Quinn. His research interests are topology, combinatorics, and a bit of category theory.

*Abstract:* This talk will be about the intersection of geometry and combinatorics. The latter topic deals with simple building blocks and rules for combining them. The first thing we usually do is try to count the possible structures. At second glance though we might want to organize those structures into a nice superstructure. A lot of times that turns out to be a convex polytope, and the associahedra are one of the easiest examples of that. Zonotopes, including the five famous parallelohedra, are another example that turn out to be closely related. The relationship is intriguing: it looks exactly like the relationship between gradients and level curves on a surface.

**Coffee available in RT 1517 before the talk at 1:30pm**