

UMW Colloquium Announcement

Department of Mathematics

Examining the Mathematically Rich 'Game' of Tchoukaillon

Presented by

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**Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 4 p.m.
140 Trinkle Hall**

Abstract: Tchoukaillon is a member of the sowing family of board games that originated in Africa and Asia, of which mancala is the most commonly known. Tchoukaillon is a solitaire sowing 'game' and sowing occurs when a player picks up stones in a particular bin and distributes them in adjacent bins. We will analyze interesting patterns, uncover multiple ways to find a winning board, apply linear algebra, discuss commutative diagrams, connect this 'game' with Erdos, and conclude with the Chinese Remainder Theorem. You should also be slightly intrigued how 'game' is defined!

