It is easy to check that a sequence $x_1, x_2, \ldots$ satisfying the recurrence relation $x_{k+1} x_{k-1} = x_k + 1$ has period 5. I will discuss a family of generalizations of this periodicity phenomenon, and their appearances in various mathematical contexts.

Cluster Algebras and Invariant Theory

4:00 pm, Tuesday, May 14, 2013 – 112 Lillis Hall

3:15 Tea in Fenton 219 will precede the lecture

This will be a brief and informal introduction to cluster algebras "from scratch," emphasizing their connections with classical invariant theory.