



**The Department of Mathematics
Presents**

Peter Tannenbaum, Ph.D.

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**Friday, November 6, 2015
1:00PM – 2:00PM
PB 192**



The Mathematics of Dating, Courtship and Marriage

Abstract:

When it comes to dating, courtship and marriage, most people assume that these are "matters of the heart" and that mathematics cannot play a role at all. Surprisingly, there are several questions related to "matters of the heart" where mathematics does play a useful and interesting role. How do you narrow the search space? How do you optimize your chances of finding the "best" (or "second best", or "acceptable") partner? How can you create "stable marriages"?

In this talk I will describe some of the ways mathematics is used in dealing with these questions. I will not be proving any theorems or dealing with any deep theories but rather describing some ideas and an occasional algorithm. The talk will be accessible to anyone with a mathematics background beyond high school algebra.

If you are looking for love this talk will probably not help you, but if you want to spend a fun hour hearing about math in some of the most unexpected places, you are cordially invited.

About the Speaker:

Dr. Tannenbaum is a professor emeritus. He served as a chair of the Math Department at Fresno State. He received two bachelor's degrees in mathematics and political science, M.A. in mathematics, and Ph.D. in mathematics from UC Santa Barbara. His areas of expertise and interest are algebra, coding theory, combinatorics, mathematical politics, and weighed voting games.