

let G be a group. $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

**THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCES AND
MATHEMATICS
AND R. W. YEAGY COLLOQUIUM PRESENT:**

**MAJOR DECISIONS:
INVESTIGATING THE
RETENTION CRISIS IN
UNDERGRADUATE
MATHEMATICS**

**BY AMANDA LAKE HEATH
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-DOWNTOWN**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26 @ 4:00PM

**ROOM 357
BUSH MATH BUILDING**

UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR ENROLLMENT IS A NATIONWIDE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION IN UNIVERSITY STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS) DEPARTMENTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES, IN WHICH MANY MATHEMATICS MAJOR PROGRAMS ARE BEING ELIMINATED DUE TO LOW MAJOR ENROLLMENT. IT IS IMPERATIVE TO RECRUIT STUDENTS TO MAJOR IN THE MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES, YET THE TRUE ISSUE OF ENROLLMENT IN THE MATHEMATICS MAJOR MAY LIE IN RETENTION; MATHEMATICS HAS THE HIGHEST ATTRITION RATE OF ANY UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR AT 52%. THE QUESTION REMAINS, WHY ARE STUDENTS, WHO AT ONE POINT CHOSE MATHEMATICS AS THEIR MAJOR, WALKING AWAY? IN AN EFFORT TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HOW MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENTS CAN SUPPORT RETENTION IN THEIR MAJORS, I, ALONG WITH COLLEAGUES FROM MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY LAUNCHED THE MATHEMATICS JOURNEYS OF RETENTION: WHY INDIVIDUALS SWITCH EDUCATIONAL PATHS (MAJORWISE) SURVEY STUDY. IN THIS PRESENTATION, I WILL DESCRIBE THE MAJORWISE PROJECT AND REPORT ON FINDINGS REGARDING WHY STUDENTS DECIDE TO MAJOR IN MATHEMATICS, WHY THEY MIGHT LEAVE OR CONSIDER LEAVING, AND WHY SOME ULTIMATELY PERSIST.