COLLOQUIUM

From 'entopology' to morphology in hyperbolic geometry

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Like the work of the entomologist, the classification of hyperbolic 3-manifolds with finitely generated fundamental group involves sorting a lot of pretty ugly looking bugs. Mathematically, this classification reduces to Thurston's *Ending Lamination Conjecture*; our proof (with Canary and Minsky) produced an array of tools for understanding how a topological specification of a 3-manifold relates to its geometry. Once such specification, the *Heegaard splitting*, seems ripe for exploration along these lines, yet a complete picture is still under development. I'll review the state of things, discuss some key examples, and discuss how this may help us understand the geometry of a 'random 3-manifold.'

The lecture will take place in Thackeray 704 at 3:30pm.
Refreshments will start at 3:00pm.