Sam Vandervelde is an Associate Professor of Mathematics at St. Lawrence University who received several awards from Mathematical Association of America for his teaching accomplishments. It wouldn't be wrong to say that he has a career in problems solving which started when he was in high school. At that time he was a problem solver: a winner of ARML and a member of 1989 IMO team. He continued this career by creating problems, both for Math Circles and competitions. He started Stanford Math Circles and was one of the people responsible for the inception of Teachers' Circles. He writes and oversees the Mandelbrot Competition, a national high school math contest, and contributes problems to the US Math Olympiad.

MfA Math for America

Math Circle

MfA Utah Teachers' Circle

welcomes

Sam Vandervelde

MfAUtah Teachers' Circle

How to write math problems

Tuesday, May 12
6:30 - 8:30pm
LCB Loft

As the leader of the Stanford Math Circles Sam developed many original talks some of which can be found in his book Circle-in-a-Box. Join us for a session in which Sam will guide us through a process of writing mathematics problems. Complete the experience by visiting Math Circle for a session developed by Sam: The Game of ESPionage: an entertaining introduction to Nash equilibria.

Math Circle

The Game of ESPionage

Wednesday, May 13
4:00 - 5:45pm
LCB 222

In the game of ESPionage, two players attempt to read one another's minds in order to score as many points as possible in a rock-paper-scissors like setup. We will engage in a lively team ESPionage tournament, then see where the game leads us mathematically. With any luck we will ultimately discover the optimal strategy for each player and learn how this strategy is related to modern economic theory and bluffing in poker.