

College of Arts and Letters Visiting Scholar Colloquium

*Cultivating Wisdom: Why Should School Students
Model with Mathematics?*

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Abstract: How should mathematics be taught in today's schools? What mathematics is important to include in K-12 students' education? What opportunity do mathematics teachers have in preparing children to grow into thoughtful citizens who make wise decisions? Mathematical modeling—or making choices about how to use mathematics or statistics to make a prediction or decision—highlights the sometimes conflicting natures of mathematics and school mathematics. Prevailing public attitudes about teachers, teaching, and mathematics influence expectations about schooling and often constrain student development in mathematics. Meanwhile, the education system and those of us in it bear a responsibility to ensure fair and equitable access to knowledge, opportunity, and sound judgment. The study of mathematics not only can prepare students for citizenship and careers, but also can provide wisdom.

Thursday, November 16 at 7:00 PM in Miller 1101