

## ***GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINAR***

**Guest Speaker: Randy Van Why**

**Princeton University**

***Date:*** Monday, November 21, 2022

***Time:*** 4:00 PM

***Location:*** 125 Hayes-Healy Hall

***Zoom URL:*** [notredame.zoom.us/j/93888654312](https://notredame.zoom.us/j/93888654312)



***Lecture Title:***

**A glance at low dimensional symplectic topology**

***Abstract***

Symplectic geometry is a peculiar geometry from an outsiders perspective. The field has its roots in physics but the theory has expanded far beyond the scope of the conceptual frameworks from the genesis of the field. Currently, there is no wide consensus on what symplectic geometry is, what it is good for, or what it possibly has to say about geometry/topology in the large. In this talk, I hope to introduce everyone to my favorite facet of this enigmatic field: symplectic geometric topology. I will use complex affine varieties as a motivator for discussing some constructions in symplectic 4-manifolds and contact 3-manifolds. If time permits, I will discuss some little known connections between modern symplectic geometry and classical geometric topology.