

**Date:** Friday 10 September 2010, 4:30pm  
**Location:** Hempfield High School, Room 213  
**Speaker:** Gary Kennedy, Ohio State University  
**Title:** Zariski decomposition: a new (old) chapter of linear algebra

**Abstract.** This is a report on joint work with Thomas Bauer and Mirel Caibar. In a 1962 paper, Zariski introduced the decomposition theory that now bears his name. Although it arose in the context of algebraic geometry and deals with the configuration of curves on an algebraic surface, we have recently observed that the essential concept is purely within the realm of linear algebra. The talk will include history and examples.