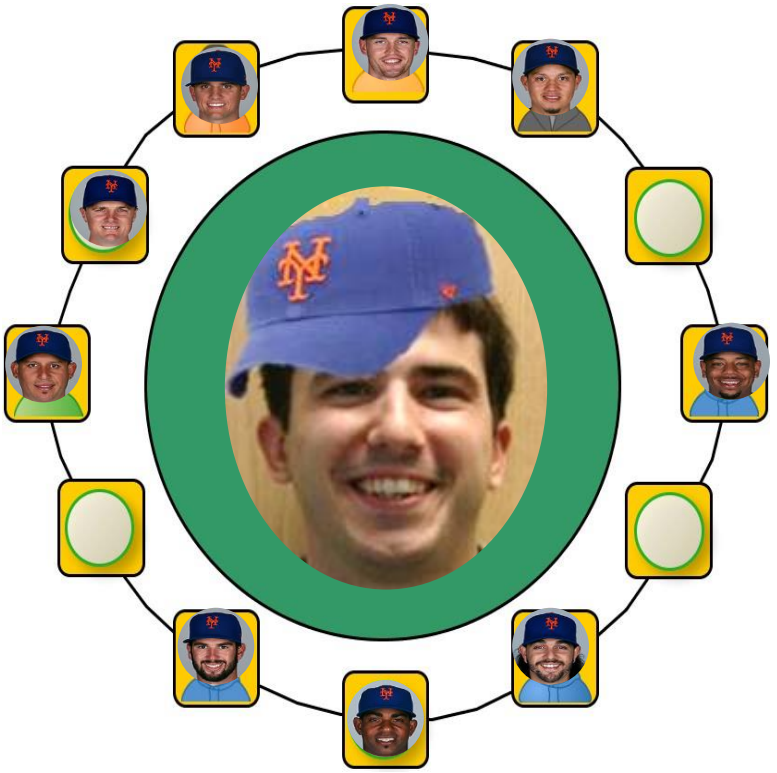
# *The Not-So-Trivial Problem of Sorting Circular Permutations*

**Dr. Michael Allocca**
**Associate Professor of Mathematics, Muhlenberg College**

## Thursday, March 1, 11:30 a.m.
## Glatfelter 204



Permutations are a common tool used in mathematics, computer science, and the natural sciences in general. Circular permutations, the ordered rearrangement of enumerated objects in circular fashion, introduce a surprising degree of complexity. We will discuss the mathematics behind sorting circular permutations and connect it to a strategy for modeling evolutionary distance among organisms with circular chromosomes.

A native of New York City, Michael earned his Ph.D. at North Carolina State University. His research interests include Homotopy Algebras, Braid Theory, and Combinatorics of Genome Rearrangements. He has also mentored undergraduate research in APBRmetrics, the basketball version of sabermetrics.

He loves baseball, offering exhaustive support of his beloved New York Mets.

Lunch will be available for colloquium guests after the presentations.