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Winter 2-13-2014

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Recommended Citation

Kamp, Danielle, "Liffiton to Discuss Analyzing the Impossible at Colloquium Friday, Feb. 14" (2014). *News and Events*. 2322.
https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/2322

Liffiton to Discuss Analyzing the Impossible at Colloquium Friday, Feb. 14

Feb. 13, 2014

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—Mark Liffiton, assistant professor of computer science at Illinois Wesleyan University, will present a faculty colloquium, titled "My Slice of Computer Science: Analyzing the Impossible," on Friday, Feb. 14 at 4 p.m.

The main focus of Liffiton's presentation will be on a new algorithm he created for analyzing constraint systems. "If you have a problem that has constraints that interact in a way that there's no way to satisfy all of the constraints, my work is about coming up with ways to analyze those problems and say why there is no solution, where the problem is and where I might be able to fix it," said Liffiton.

An assistant professor of computer science at Wesleyan since 2009, Liffiton received a doctorate from the University of Michigan in computer science and engineering. He specializes in the research of constraint systems, a subfield of artificial intelligence.

"Artificial intelligence covers any problem that is considered difficult for computers to solve," said Liffiton, who at the age of five became interested in computers and has since seen the rapid and expansive growth in computer science research. "I feel that computers are becoming more and more intelligent, not to the point of being as smart as a human, but they can do more tasks that previously have been far beyond what we've always thought possible for computers," said Liffiton.

His presentation will take place in the Center for Natural Science Learning and Research (201 Beecher St., Bloomington) in the Anderson Auditorium, C101.

For additional information, contact Sherry Wallace, director for news and media relations, at (309) 556-3181.

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