Abstract:
In the 1997 movie "Good Will Hunting" one math problem catapulted the main character into the mathematical limelight thus setting the stage for the entire film. The problem, posed by a fictional MIT professor, combines elementary graph theory, linear algebra and some basic calculus in a fascinating way. In this talk we will examine the problem scrawled on a hallway blackboard at MIT and see if the movie consultants earned their fee by providing Matt Damon with a correct solution!