



Stephen Smith
University of Illinois at Chicago

Will present the Thirty-First
William J. Spencer Lecture

Title of Talk:

“Revisiting the Classification of the Finite Simple Groups”

Thursday, April 17, 2008

2:30 PM

1018 Throckmorton Hall

Kansas State University

Manhattan, Kansas

All are invited

The classification of the finite simple groups was a huge project, involving hundreds of mathematicians and thousands of journal pages. Most of the work was done in the 1970s and early 1980s — though the final piece was not put in place until the 2004 publication of the Aschbacher-Smith classification of the “quasithin” groups.

The talk will give an expository overview of the classification effort — including the original history, along with a number of more recent insights. Some of the latter are emerging from a joint work in progress, aimed at publishing an outline of the classification.

Stephen Smith, January 23, 2008