## KEN STEPHENSON, University of Tennessee

Quasiconformal Mappings via Circle Packing: a Conjecture
Suppose $K$ is a triangulation of a region $G$ in the plane. Associated with $K$ is a maximal packing $P$ in the unit disc $\mathbb{D}$, that is, a configuration of circles with the tangency pattern encoded in $K$. In particular, $P$ gives an embedding $K^{\prime}$ of $K$ in $\mathbb{D}$. Intensive experiments suggest that when $K$ is an appropriately random triangulation of $G$, then the piecewise affine map $f: K^{\prime} \rightarrow K$ approximates the conformal map from $\mathbb{D}$ to $G$. If this is the case, then by biasing the random triangulation $K$ using the ellipse field for a Beltrami coefficient $\mu$, one should be able to approximate the quasiconformal mapping from $\mathbb{D}$ to $G$ with dilatation $\mu$. Conjectured results will be illuminated by visual experiments.

