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**Tom Braden** and **Carl Mautner\*** (mautner@math.ucr.edu). *From the general linear group to matroids.*

The Schur algebra is a finite-dimensional algebra that encodes the rich representation theory of the general linear group. Motivated by geometry, Tom Braden and I have defined a similar algebra associated to any graph or, more generally, matroid. After introducing the various objects involved, I will discuss how our work ‘categorifies’ some combinatorial results about matroids and discuss some new combinatorial questions that it raises. (Received September 11, 2017)