



BAMA 3

School Year 2009–2010
Join us for a free talk...

Melanie Wood

Random Behavior in the Prime Numbers

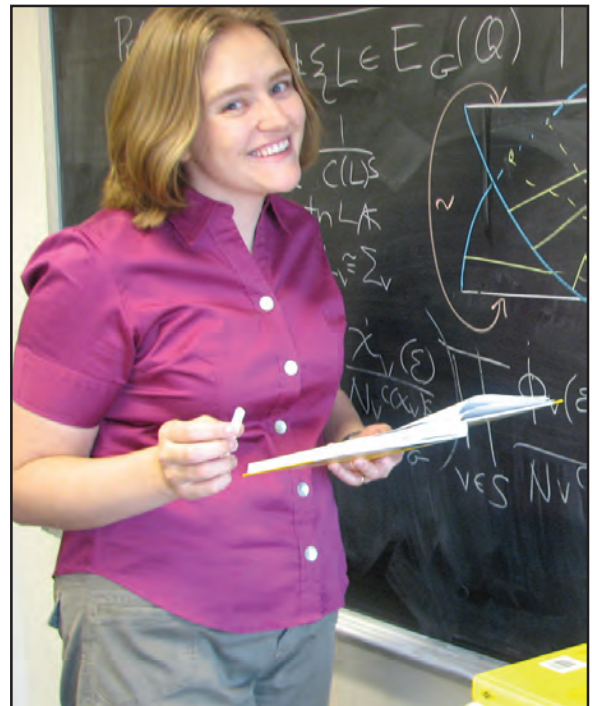


San Jose State University*
Engineering Auditorium, Rm. 189
7:30 pm
Wednesday, December 16

Prime numbers, numbers whose only factors are 1 and themselves, are the fundamental building blocks of all of the numbers, and so mathematicians work very hard to try to unlock their secrets. We will explore what it means for primes to have random features, which will lead us to the question of how to compare two quantities that are both infinite. We'll see examples of both randomness and some surprising patterns (non-randomness) in the primes, and why you sometimes need to study primes as large as 608,981,813,029.

Melanie Wood is a Szegö Assistant Professor in the mathematics department at Stanford University and an American Institute of Mathematics Five-Year Fellow. She finished her mathematics PhD at Princeton this past spring. As a high school student, Melanie was on the US International Math Olympiad team in 1998 and 1999—the first female on a US IMO team.

In college at Duke University, Melanie was a Putnam Fellow, scoring in the top 5 on the Putnam mathematics competition, the second woman and first American woman to score at this level.



* See back for map and directions.

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