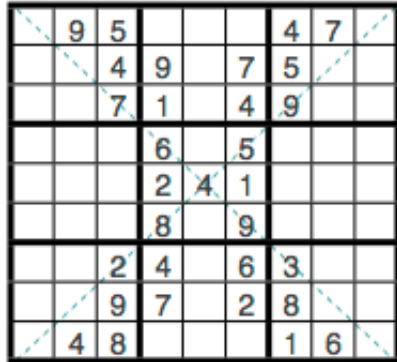


PINEY WOODS LECTURE SERIES
SUDOKU: QUESTIONS, VARIATIONS, AND RESEARCH
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2007
2 - 3 PM IN THE LSC THEATER
BY DR. LAURA TAALMAN
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY



Sudoku X
Fill in with 1-9 so that no number is repeated in any row, column, block, or main diagonal.

ABSTRACT:

Sudoku puzzles and their variants are linked to many mathematical problems involving combinatorics, Latin squares, magic squares, polyominoes, symmetries, computer algorithms, the rook problem, knight tours, graph colorings, and permutation group theory. In this talk we will explore variations of Sudoku and the many open problems and new results in this new field of recreational mathematics. Many of the problems we will discuss are suitable for undergraduate research projects. Puzzle handouts will be available for all to enjoy!

BIO:

Laura Taalman is an Associate Professor of Mathematics at James Madison University. She received her Ph.D in mathematics from Duke University, and was an undergraduate at the University of Chicago. Her research includes singular algebraic geometry, knot theory, and the mathematics of puzzles. She is the author of a textbook that combines calculus, pre-calculus, and algebra into one course, and one of the organizers of the Shenandoah Undergraduate Mathematics and Statistics (SUMS) Conference at JMU. Her awards include the MAA Trevor Evans award and the MAA Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Sponsored by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics

For more information, contact Dr. Jacqueline Jensen, 936-294-3517 or jensen@shsu.edu