

THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

# A MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM

THURSDAY, November 13, 2008

BOND HALL 217

4:00 pm

**Title: Number Bases are the Simple Context...Asking Non-Basic Questions is the Challenging Game!**

**Speaker: Jerry Johnson**, Western Washington University

**Abstract:** Ten-ness is a “basic” idea that drives our common number base. Is it the “best” number base? What if the base were 6 or -2 or even  $e$ ? Working from a brief historical view of what a number base was/is, this talk explores some very unusual questions regarding number bases—their representations, their bases, and their applications. Base ten will never seem “basic” to you again !

Refreshments will precede the talk at 3:30pm in Bond Hall 300 courtesy of Janet Mock.