THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

A MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM

THURSDAY, February 1, 2007
BOND HALL 106
4:00 pm

Title: **Multitype Branching Processes: What They Are and How to Make Them Useful**

Speaker: **Peter Olofsson**, Tulane University

Abstract: I will start with a brief introduction to multitype branching processes. Next, I will describe two biological processes that can be modeled as multitype branching processes: mutations in mitochondrial DNA and the polymerase chain reaction, PCR. I will explain why classic asymptotic results are not applicable and state results about sampling in finite time that address the problems.

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