The Humboldt State University
Department of Mathematics
Presents:

*The 58th Harry S. Kieval Lecture***

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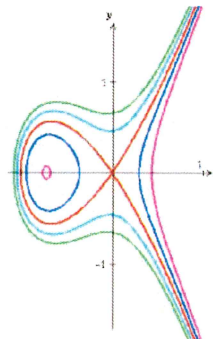## *Sunday, October 16, 2011*
7:30 P.M.
Science B 135

Kenneth Ribet

Professor of Mathematics
University of California, Berkeley

"Fermat's Last Theorem and the Modularity of Elliptic Curves"

Fermat's Last Theorem states that no three positive integers a, b, and c can satisfy the equation $a^n+b^n=c^n$ for any integer value of n greater than two.

Professor Ribert's lecture on Fermat's Last Theorem will center on a conjecture about cubic equations that was formulated in the 1950s and 1960s and then proved in the 1990s, beginning with the path-breaking work that Andrew Wiles announced in 1993. This conjecture had been linked to Fermat's Last Theorem through earlier work of the speaker, which was motivated by observations of Gerhard Frey. Frey's first observation was that any solution to Fermat's equation would produce a cubic equation with dubious properties.