

The Humboldt State University

Department of Mathematics

Presents:

The 61st Harry S. Kieval Lecture **

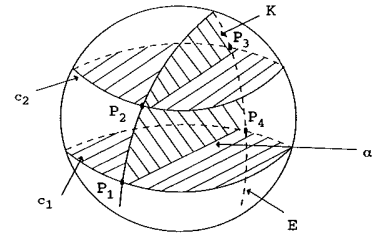
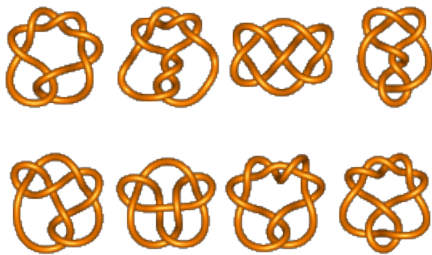
Thursday, April 18, 2013

7:30 P.M.

Science B Room 135

Abigail Thompson, Ph.D.

University of California at Davis



“3-Dimensional Universes: What are the Options?”

Our local universe looks 3-dimensional, but globally we don't know which 3-dimensional universe it might be. For example, if we could program a rocket to go "straight" forever, what would happen? Would it fall off the edge of the universe? Come back to where it started? If it does come back to where it started, could the trace of its path be knotted in the underlying space? These are some of the problems motivating the area of low-dimensional topology. I'll talk about how we can think of some of these questions by looking at 2-dimensional spaces, or surfaces, and how we can formulate and (occasionally) answer some of these questions mathematically.

**A lecture on some popular and/or broad aspects of mathematics attractive to undergraduates and the public

For more information go to: <http://www.humboldt.edu/math/kieval/index.html>

HSU is an AA/EO institution.

Disability accommodations may be available from event sponsor at 826-3143