

Department of Mathematics

Fall 2015 Colloquium Series



"Synchronicity: Alternating Sums, Exclusion,
and Determinants"

Dr. Jennifer J. Quinn

Occidental College/University of Washington at Tacoma

A video of Mathematics Colloquium (2004)

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Behavioral and Social Sciences Building Room 166, 4 p.m.

One of my goals is to understand identities involving sums of alternating terms by finding a correspondence between *odd* and *even* sets. Coincidentally, a colleague asked me about calculating a particular determinant combinatorially. When the answer ended up being related to the alternating identities, I was stunned. So just what is the connection between determinants, alternating sums and the Principle of Inclusion/Exclusion? Come and find out.

For a complete abstract, go to <http://www.humboldt.edu/math/news-and-events/math-colloquium>

*We invite you to the Pre-colloquium Tea on the third floor of the BSS
building at 3:30 on Thursday.*