

**The Humboldt State University Department of Mathematics
Proudly Presents:**

The 52nd Harry S. Kieval Lecture**

Thursday, October 9, 2008

8:00 P.M.

Founders Hall Room 118

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Woody Dudley

**Award-winning author, editor,
and professor**

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“Why Mathematics?”

Why do we teach and learn mathematics? I will give six answers, of which the first five are wrong. Among the wrong answers are that it is necessary to learn mathematics for jobs, and that it is necessary to learn mathematics to function in the world. I will not disclose the right answer here.

**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/~mathdept/HarrySKieval/kl.html>

HSU is an AA/EO institution.
Disability accommodations may be available from event sponsor at 826-5347

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT COLLOQUIUM

Woody Dudley

Author, Editor, Professor

Thursday October 9, 2008 4:00 P.M.

Wildlife Building room 258

Pre-Colloquium Tea BSS 3rd Floor

Open Alcove Area 3:30 P.M.

"Formulas for Primes"

Prime numbers are fascinating and formulas are generally good things, so formulas for primes should be doubly interesting. I will survey the field and prove exactly one theorem, that there is a real number a such that the greatest integer in a^{3^n} is prime, $n = 1, 2, \dots$. I will also make judgments: some formulas are better than others and not everything that is discovered needs to be published.

Biographical Background

Woody Dudley was born in New York City quite a number of years ago. After attaining the B.S. degree from Carnegie Tech in 1957 he worked for a time for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company but fled back to academia, getting a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1965. After two years at Ohio State, he spent thirty-seven years at DePauw University, retiring in 2004.

He is responsible for six books, the latest, *Is Mathematics Inevitable?*, a collection of pieces by other people, appearing in 2008. He has edited the *Pi Mu Epsilon Journal*, the *College Mathematics Journal*, and is currently editor of the Mathematical Association of America's book series, *Dolciani Expositions*. He has been one of the MAA's Polya lecturers. His Erdos number is 1.