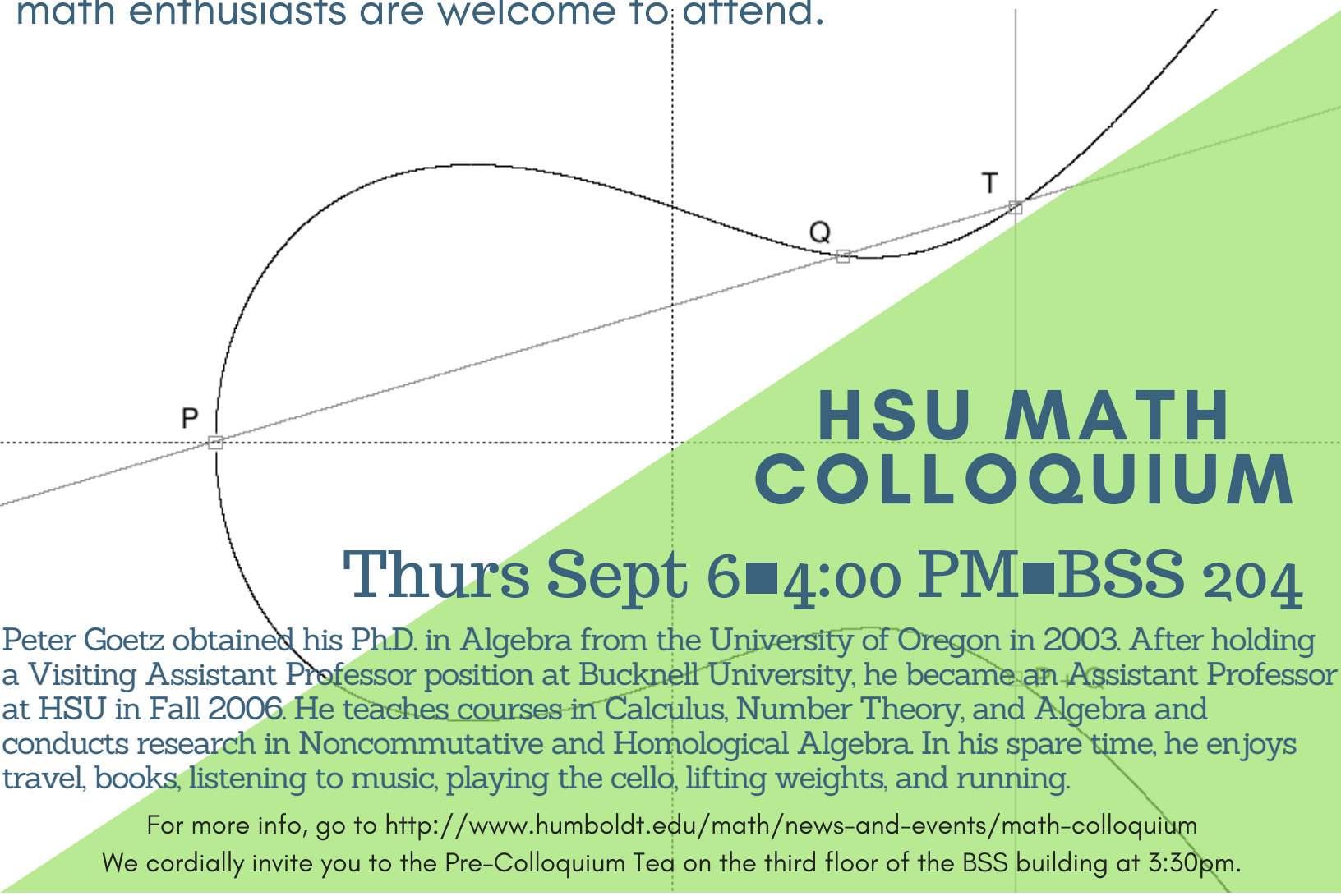


# A Brief Introduction to Elliptic Curves

Dr. Peter Goetz

An elliptic curve can be defined as a smooth, cubic curve. Even with such a simple definition, elliptic curves still hold many mysteries. They played a key role in Andrew Wiles' celebrated proof of Fermat's Last Theorem, and they also find applications in cryptography. In this talk, I will introduce elliptic curves, and discuss how geometry helps to understand their algebraic structure. A little exposure to calculus and algebra will be helpful to understand this talk, but I will explain all terms. All math enthusiasts are welcome to attend.



**HSU MATH  
COLLOQUIUM**

**Thurs Sept 6 ■ 4:00 PM ■ BSS 204**

Peter Goetz obtained his Ph.D. in Algebra from the University of Oregon in 2003. After holding a Visiting Assistant Professor position at Bucknell University, he became an Assistant Professor at HSU in Fall 2006. He teaches courses in Calculus, Number Theory, and Algebra and conducts research in Noncommutative and Homological Algebra. In his spare time, he enjoys travel, books, listening to music, playing the cello, lifting weights, and running.

For more info, go to <http://www.humboldt.edu/math/news-and-events/math-colloquium>

We cordially invite you to the Pre-Colloquium Tea on the third floor of the BSS building at 3:30pm.