

Section NExT Speakers

Saturday, 8:50-9:35 in Mallory Hall 213

Jill Bigley Dunham

Hood College

Teaching a Liberal Arts Course on the Math of Games and Sports

Abstract: In the spirit of learning about other topics for liberal arts/general education mathematics courses, I will share my experiences with teaching a course on topics in games, sports, and gambling. I'll discuss course design, objectives, and textbooks and demonstrate some in-class activities. Bring your dice-throwing hand and your wizard's hat!

Saturday, 11:05-11:50 in Mallory Hall 213

Gwyneth Whieldon

Hood College

Using Technology in the Classroom: Innovation and Practice

Abstract: Class time is incredibly valuable. Motivating the class through discussion provoking polls and questions, powering in-class discussions through out-of-class wikis or boards, or cementing a theoretical concept with a well-done demonstration or lab can mean the difference between a tight, effective class period or not. While technology can be used to transform an undergraduate classroom into a more effective, active learning environment, there can be a number of drawbacks. At the top of the list is the high-learning curve many students (and faculty!) experience, making new technology frustrating and time-consuming if not introduced in appropriate stages and with a clear purpose.

In this session, we'll look at several categories of technology, and see some successful (and unsuccessful!) ways of introducing them into your courses. There will be examples of a number of curricular materials we've developed at Hood for use in calculus, statistics, and abstract algebra classrooms, with a look at how and when they were used. A large portion of this session will be group discussion on the pros and cons of particular activities or resources. Participants are encouraged add to the discussion by bringing electronic copies of materials used in class (Maple, Mathematica or Sage worksheets, MATLAB demos, pdfs of notes/class slides, videos, etc.) or links to course webpages they've developed (Blackboard or Moodle sites, Wikis, Sage Cells or Interacts, etc.)

One additional goal of this session is to collect materials participants are willing to share, and make them available online for other Section NExT participants to use in their own classes.