

## Department of Mathematics and Statistics Colloquium

# What Are Homework Journals? And What Makes Them So Special?

**Abstract:** Homework journals are an intentional journal writing assignment (Emig, 1977) in which students solve a mathematical problem and reflect on their problem solving process (Powell & Ramnauth, 1992). Homework journals provide a vehicle to empirically study the relationship between journal writing in college mathematics courses and college students' motivation towards learning mathematics, an area of mathematics education research that has not been extensively studied. During the Fall 2010 semester, students enrolled in a Calculus course engaged in weekly homework journals regarding their mathematical knowledge and affect. By conducting student interviews and with the use of constant comparative analysis, students' motivation towards learning mathematics will be assessed.

*The speaker is a candidate for an open position in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. For reasons of confidentiality, the speaker's name and institutional affiliation have been suppressed.*

**Monday, January 23 at 3:00 in Roop 103**  
**refreshments at 2:45**