

# VCU Discrete Mathematics Seminar

## *The Jones polynomial of a knot, graphs, and tails*

**Dr Michael Abel**  
**VCU!**

Tuesday, October 28

12:30–1:20

4119 Harris Hall

The Jones polynomial of a knot is one of the most exciting discoveries of the last 40 years in knot theory. It was discovered by Vaughn Jones in 1984 and has motivated many advances in knot theory, low-dimensional topology, and the study of quantum groups. Amazingly, this polynomial is also very accessible and easy to learn how to compute.

In this talk I will give an introduction to the Jones polynomial and explain how to compute it using knot diagrams. We will then specialize to alternating knots and explain how we may associate planar (multi)graphs to alternating knots. We will then connect the two concepts in studying the "tail", a type of limiting behavior, of the Jones polynomial.



For more information on our fall schedule, see:  
<http://www.people.vcu.edu/~dcranston/DM-seminar/>