



The Math Colloquium  
Department of Mathematics  
San José State University



**David Czerwinski**  
SJSU, Marketing and Decision Sciences

*The Math of Moneyball*

APRIL 1, 2009, MH320

**Abstract:** The book *Moneyball* chronicles the 2002 season of the Oakland A's and highlights their use of quantitative methods. In this talk, we show how the A's effectively tied their strategic goals to simple mathematical models. We take a look at the data that they based their models on and update the story through the end of the 2007 season.

During the second half of the talk, we will show how one of the methods used by the A's can also be used to answer an important question about airline safety: Are all US airlines equally safe?

*Background:* No special background in math (or baseball) is required, though familiarity with statistical hypothesis testing will make the second half a little easier to understand.

*About the speaker:* David Czerwinski is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Marketing and Decision Sciences at SJSU. He earned his Ph.D. in Operations Research from MIT in 2008. Now that he's in the Bay Area, he plans on becoming an A's fan.

SNACKS IN MH331B AT 2:30 PM

TALK STARTS AT 3 PM

For more information, see our full schedule at:

<http://www.math.sjsu.edu/~hsu/colloq/>