



The Math Colloquium  
Department of Mathematics  
San José State University



# Cornelia Van Cott

Univ. of San Francisco

*Brussels Sprouts and the Euler Characteristic*

NOVEMBER 9, 2011, MH320

**Abstract:** You undoubtedly know brussels sprouts are a vegetable, but what you may not know is that Brussels Sprouts is also the name of a two-person game invented by the mathematician John Conway. In this talk, we will learn to play the game and then discover the role that the Euler characteristic plays in developing a game winning strategy. This observation will lead to further investigation of surfaces and their Euler characteristic.

*Background:* No prerequisites necessary.

**About the speaker:** Cornelia Van Cott received her Ph.D. from Indiana University and is currently an assistant professor of mathematics at the University of San Francisco. Her research is in geometric topology. She also works weekly with high school students in an after school program called the San Francisco Math Circle.

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/>