

## Lectures on Pure and Applied Math



# Announcing

**A Mathematics Seminar  
March 11, 2009 at 4:00 pm  
SH 303**

**at The University of Southern Mississippi**

**Speaker: Vivian Moody**

Department of Teaching and Learning  
University of Louisville

**Title: An Infinite Series: The Necessity of Seeking  
Answers to Complex Questions**

**Abstract:**

As some research scholars (Gay, 1983; Ladson-Billings, 1995; Moody, 1997) have found, it is important to conceptualize the beliefs, cognitions, cultural orientations, and perceptions of mathematics students and prospective or practicing mathematics teachers to improve the teaching and learning of mathematics. Students learning of mathematics is influenced by their perceptions of and responses to mathematics teachers, teaching practices, and mathematics classroom environments (Stiff, 1990; Stiff & Harvey, 1988). Some researchers (Anyon, 1981; Banks, 1988; Gay, 1983; Grant, 1989) have found that teachers, who do not have some understandings of students ethnic heritages, values and priorities, and perspectives, have difficulty interacting constructively with and effectively relating subject matter to their students. Hence, inquiry into equitable mathematics classrooms and mathematics teaching practices that propel students to successfully learn mathematics is essential and has guided much of Dr. Moody's scholarly activities. Dr. Moody will share some of her research findings from these scholarly activities. Additionally, Dr. Moody will share how this research has led her to new hypotheses and research questions about teachers knowledge of mathematics and how the depth and breadth of this knowledge influences whether teachers are able to attend to issues of equity in the mathematics classroom. Dr. Moody will encourage the audience to engage in dialogue about why these research questions are important in preparing prospective teachers to teach mathematics.

**Further Information**

Further details and information about this and other departmental activities is available online at [http://www.math.usm.edu/bulletin\\_board/](http://www.math.usm.edu/bulletin_board/).