

# **OUSMI COLLOQUIUM**

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS  
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY  
ROCHESTER, MICHIGAN 48309

**Carl Pomerance**  
Department of Mathematics  
Dartmouth University

## **Famous and Infamous Problem about the Primes**

### **Abstract**

Prime numbers are the great equalizer. Too often the know-it-all experts have it all over young beginners. But with prime numbers, it's easy for a beginner to come up with an attractive and reasonable problem that even the pros can't touch. And sometimes, beginners make important progress, as recently happened with the problem of recognizing when a given number is prime. We will visit this and many other prime number problems.

**Friday, July 14, 2006**  
**8:45 – 9:45 A.M.**  
**201 Dodge Hall of Engineering**

Professor Pomerance is known world-wide for his work in number theory. He earned his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1972 and joined the University of Georgia. In 1984, he became Research Professor at the University of Georgia, and he retired from the University as Research Professor Emeritus in 1999. He then joined Bell Labs – Lucent Technologies where he worked until 2003. Since 2003, he has been at Dartmouth College. Professor Pomerance has won many awards including the Chauvenet Prize in 1985, MAA's Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimp Award Distinguished University Teaching Award in 1997, and the AMS's Conant Prize in 2001. He became a Fellow of American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2004. Professor Pomerance has over 150 publications and he is the inventor of the famous quadratic sieve factorization method.

