Pi Mu Epsilon
& GAMECOCK MATH CLUB

Sudoku Championship
Tuesday, February 1st, 2011

LeConte 101

- **6:30pm – A talk "Playing Fair at Sudoku" by USC Professor Josh Cooper**

Abstract: A Sudoku "puzzle" is a partially filled-out 9X9 board -- ostensibly, to be completed by the solver. Filled-in blocks are known as "givens". A puzzle would not be fair unless it satisfied two criteria: (1) there must be a solution, and (2) the solution must be unique. A puzzle designer therefore faces a challenge in making sure that his/her puzzles are fair. One reasonable question they might ask is, "What is the fewest number of givens in a fair puzzle?" Amazingly, this question is open! The best known bounds are 8 and 17, i.e., there is a fair puzzle known (actually many) with 17 givens, and it is easy to see that any fair puzzle must have at least 6 givens. We talk about what is known about this question, and how a possible solution might look. Students interested in becoming involved with research will find many intriguing questions to think about.

- **7:30pm – 4th Annual Sudoku Championship**

Prizes for the Overall Winners!

Door Prizes and Snacks, too!

For more information visit: http://www.math.sc.edu/~pme

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