



# MATHEMATICS EDUCATION COLLOQUIUM SERIES

*at*

*Suffolk University*  
Beacon Hill, Boston, Massachusetts

## Robert Curtis

*Suffolk University*

*“An Introduction to LiveMath Software  
with Application to a Distance Precalculus Course”*

Abstract: LiveMath is a computer algebra and graphing system that allows and requires the user to complete intermediate steps in computations, thus reducing the “black box” effect in mathematics software. This software is well-tested in distance and regular (reform) courses Calculus and above. Precalculus offers a distinct challenge in that the skills the software performs automatically are exactly the skills we want the students to develop themselves. Graphing Calculators have proven an effective component to (reform-based) Precalculus; the addition of a computer algebra system takes the next step past calculators. But is it a good step? Now throw into the mix a distance delivery of the course. The TI-92 computer algebra (Derive) went commercially flat in Precalculus. Can all of these ingredients converge to an effective distance-based Precalculus course?

**Tuesday, October 25, 2005 - 1:30-2:30PM**

Colloquium Tea: 1:00PM

Fenton Building, Room 615

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Suffolk University  
is located on  
Beacon Hill in Boston,  
Massachusetts to the rear of the  
Massachusetts State  
Capitol Building

Take the Red Line to Park Street  
Parking near campus is *not* easily  
available. Some pay lots are available through-  
out the Beacon Hill area  
<http://www.suffolk.edu/map.html>

Colloquium Series Website: <http://www.distancecalculus.com/mecs/>