The William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition

takes place Saturday, December 6, 2008.
In 2007, Stanford placed fourth.

Sign-up and Introductory Meeting
Mon. Sept. 29 5:15–5:45 pm, in 380–383N

We will also discuss times and dates of problem-solving preparatory sessions (a.k.a. the Polya Problem-Solving Seminar). If you can’t make it and are even potentially interested, please e-mail ksound@math.stanford.edu.

For more information: http://math.stanford.edu/~ksound/Polya.html

Sample problems:
1. Show that there are exactly three right angled triangles whose sides are of integer lengths and such that the area is numerically equal to twice the perimeter.
2. Suppose you color each point on your table red, white or blue. Must there necessarily be two points of the same color exactly one inch apart?
3. Define a selfish set to be a set which has its own cardinality (number of elements) as an element. Find, with proof, the number of subsets of \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} which are minimal selfish sets, that is, selfish sets none of whose proper subsets is selfish.