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**Jennifer Morse\*** ([morsej@math.drexel.edu](mailto:morsej@math.drexel.edu)), 3141 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

*Flag Gromov-Witten invariants and Macdonald polynomials.*

We show how to identify the set of 3-point Gromov-Witten invariants for flag manifolds and the WZW fusion rules as coefficients in a product of  $k$ -Schur functions. Using symmetric function combinatorics, we describe a defining set of invariants. Time permitting, we show how this approach gives a  $t$ -parameter family of representatives for the Schubert classes of cohomology of the affine Grassmannian that is connected to Macdonald symmetric functions. (Received September 17, 2013)