Abstract: In the past fifteen years, low dimensional topologists have become interested in invariants of 3- and 4-manifolds (and knots and surfaces within them) which refine the information of certain classical invariants. We say these modern invariants are categorifications of their classical counterparts. I'll explain what categorification is, and talk about the relationship of a classical invariant of knots, the Alexander polynomial, and its categorified version, Heegaard Floer knot homology, introduced by Ozsvath-Szabo and Rasmussen in the early 2000s.