Last week’s seminar was the last math seminar of this academic year. We hope you enjoyed this year’s series of talks and look forward to seeing you again in the fall.

We would also like to recognize and thank Professor Chris Harden for all of his hard work organizing and coordinating an outstanding seminar. Nice job!

Kudos to …

- Professor Kathryn Lesh, who has received a three-year National Science Foundation (NSF) grant as part of the NSFs “Focused Research Group” program. The project title is “The Calculus of Functors an the Theory of Operads: Interactions and Applications.” She will be working with She’ll be working with faculty from the University of Georgia, the University of Virginia, Kansas State University, and Notre Dame.

Thank you, Calculus Help Center Tutors!

The last night that the Calculus Help Center will be open this term is Thursday, June 3. Please join me in thanking the tutors who have worked hard in making the 2009-10 CHC such a valuable resource:

- Peter Bonvente
- Sara Einhorn
- Ben Miles
- Courtney Phillips
- Pam Urresta
- Erin Whitney
- Matt Zawodniak

Calculus Help Center Tutoring Positions for Fall Are Available

Professor Paul Friedman is now accepting applications for Calculus Help Center tutoring positions. Tutors work in the CHC one night per week (Sun-Thurs) from 7:30-10:00. Tutors must have had calculus through Math 115, preferably through Math 117, with grades no lower than A-.

To apply for a position, send an email to friedmap@union.edu expressing your interest, listing your mathematical background, including coursework (term, professor, and grades), tutoring experience (if any), and statement about why you think you would be a good tutor.

Application deadline: Monday, May 31 at noon.

Math Department Picnic!

- Thursday, June 3rd
- Rain date: Friday, June 4th
- 4:00-6:30
- The Courtyard between Bailey and Butterfield
The following was relayed to the newsletter by Professor Julius Barbanel, pictured.

For years I’ve noticed an odd-looking 3-D figure sitting in the yard of a house on Maple Road, on my way to Union College. It looked like an icosahedron (one of the five regular Platonic solids, constructed in Euclid), but I could not be sure (since I was always driving at the time and could not see it well.) This term, I’m working with a sophomore scholar and studying the Platonic solids. I decided I could not resist any longer, so I stopped by and talked to the guy who lives there. It turns out it is an icosahedron. The guy is a retired GE physicist, who figured out all of the angles and did the construction himself. He knew all about what it is and knew the history. I attach a picture for your amusement.

Summer Opportunity

For interested first-year or sophomore students: Bloomberg, the leading global provider of financial data, news and analytics, has invited our students interested in finance, news or technology to apply for their Summer Analytics Boot Camp (July 12-16 in New York City). This weeklong program is designed to expose undergraduate students to Bloomberg’s Financial Sales and Analytics department. Students will be immersed in a range of topics as well as leadership and networking activities with Bloomberg professionals.

Applicants should be highly motivated, have demonstrated problem solving and communication skills, and a strong interest in business, finance and sales; 3.0 GPA required. Interested students may view additional details through http://union.experience.com (search by Employer: “Bloomberg”) and must have their resume and cover letter reviewed by the Career Center; application deadline is June 5.

Students with questions about eRecruiting or the opportunity please contact Rochelle Caruso at the Becker Career Center: carusor@union.edu

Problem of the Newsletter: May 28, 2010

Congratulations to Daniel Gnoutcheff, Schuyler Smith and Professor Bill Zwicker(!) for submitting a correct solution to last week’s Problem of the Newsletter. A copy of Dan’s solution been posted on the bulletin boards around Bailey Hall.

Here is this week’s problem: A calculus quickie! Let f(x)=x^3+ax+b, with a≠b. Suppose the tangent lines to the graph of f at x=a and x=b are parallel. Find f(1).

Professor Friedman will accept solutions to this problem until 12:00 noon Thursday, June 3rd. Email your solution to him (friedmap@union.edu) or put it in his mailbox in the Math office in Bailey Hall.