



Department of Mathematics
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Department of MATHEMATICS

Welcome! We hope you enjoy the first edition of our Union University Department of Mathematics newsletter! Our desire is to keep you informed and up to date on the latest department and faculty news, upcoming Math events, and alumni goings on. If you have any newsworthy items you would like included in our next edition, please email crowland@uu.edu and we'll be sure to get them in for you!

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visit us on the web!
uu.edu/academics/coas/math



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chair's corner

The Department of Mathematics at Union University is blessed to have been part of the lives of its many alumni. Our alums lead diverse lives, and we would love to hear what you are doing, whether you are working in industry, teaching, retired, raising a family or doing research. Do you live overseas? Are you retired? Bring us up to date.

Many of you have put your mathematical training to work in a variety of settings, and perhaps your story could inspire current students to consider opportunities they might not have considered. Some of you have stories of how the integration of faith and learning at Union has impacted your lives or the lives of those around you. Remember Galatians 6:6!

May God bless you,

Bryan Dawson
Chair and Professor, Department of Mathematics

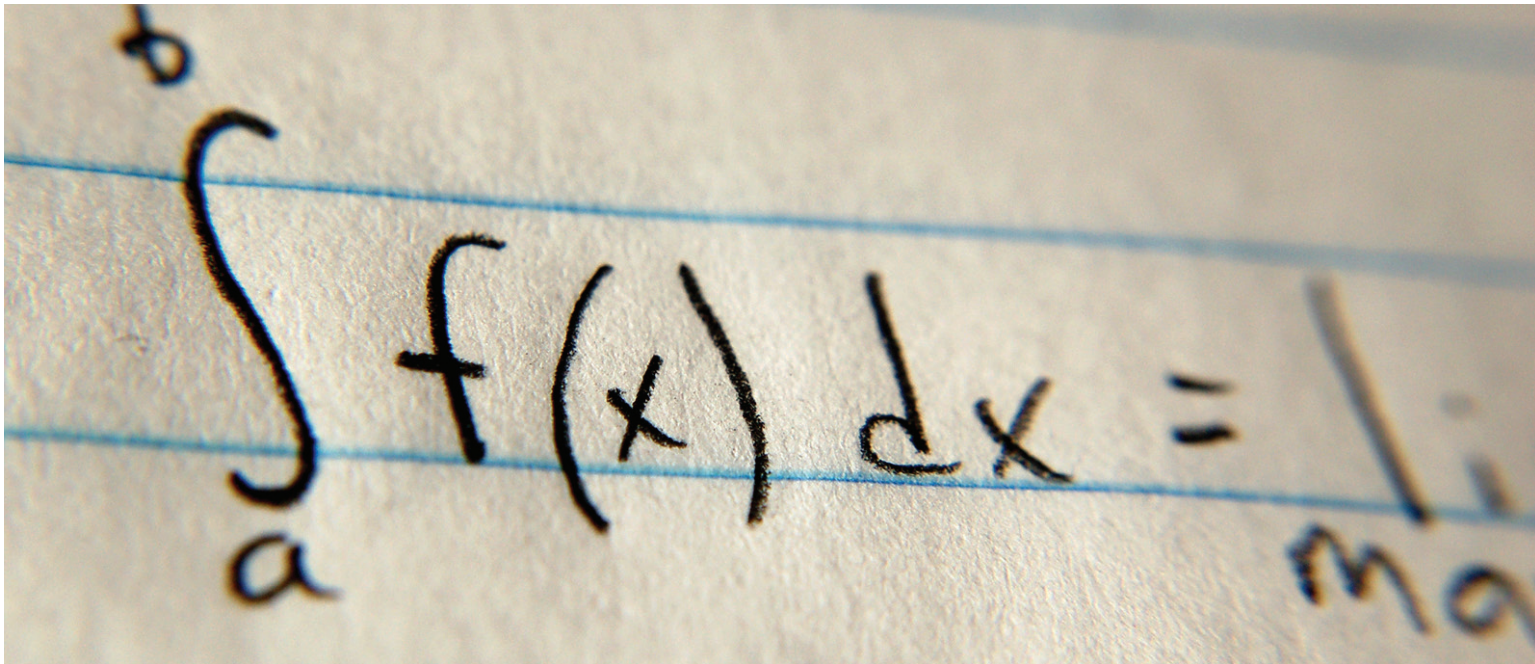
*email Dr. Dawson at bdawson@uu.edu or call 731.661.5268



A shot of Miller Tower, Jennings Hall and the new Providence Hall on Union's Jackson campus this fall.



EXCELLENCE-DRIVEN
CHRIST-CENTERED
PEOPLE-FOCUSED
FUTURE-DIRECTED



Dr. Neuhouser addresses faith and learning



The Department of Mathematics at Union University recently welcomed to campus Dr. David L. Neuhouser, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at Taylor University (Ind.). Dr. Neuhouser gave two public lectures at Union. In his first address, he spoke to a general audience in Harvey Auditorium on the

topic "What Does Mathematics have to do with Christianity?" He argued that through beauty, imagination, reason, paradoxes, and obedience, one can find connections between mathematics and Christianity which can led to growth and understanding in both areas. His chief witness for this claim was 19th century author and preacher George MacDonald.

In the second address, Dr. Neuhouser was the guest speaker for the monthly Colloquium Series

(co-hosted with the Department of Computer Science). His talk entitled "Many Dimensions" discussed how the idea of higher dimensions is not only a fruitful concept in mathematics, but also is the basis for theories in modern physics, and moreover has been used in literature (e.g. Edwin Abbott, C. S. Lewis, and Madeline L'Engle) and in theology. In addition to his public lectures, Dr. Neuhouser conversed with senior mathematics majors. ■

department of math mission statement

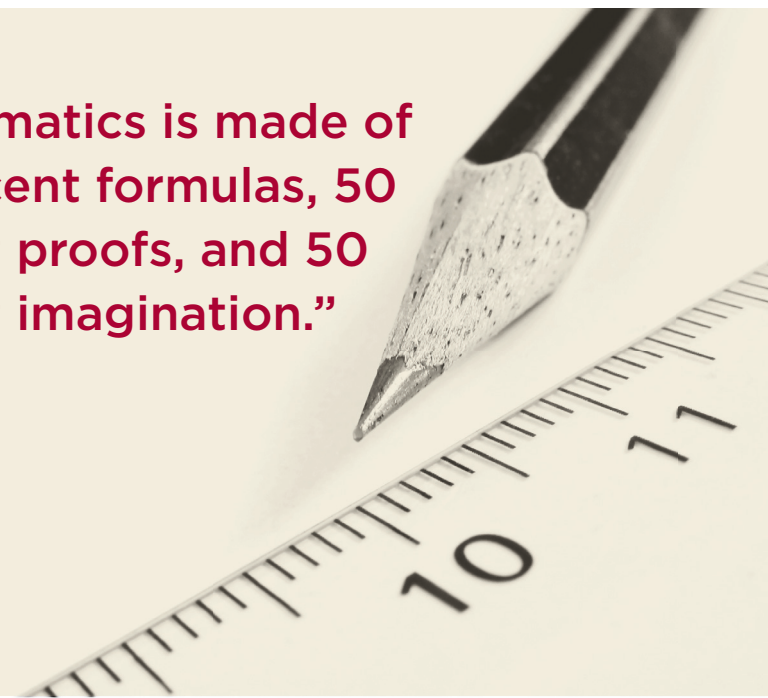
Union's mathematics program seeks to further students in their quest for increased understanding of Creation and the created order and to equip students to serve God, church and society through excellence in thinking and the use of mathematics. We do this through a curriculum that develops the student's ability to think logically, analytically, and abstractly; to pursue a body of knowledge whose basis is largely independent of both empirical observation and culture; and to learn humility and a sense of wonder at the complexity, beauty, and applicability of mathematics. ■



the union intersection

Have you visited the Math department's new faculty/student lounge, The Union Intersection? It's a great, quiet place to study, either alone or in study groups, eat a snack, or just hang out and chill! We're so thankful for our faculty and students to have their own personal "math" space. ■

"Mathematics is made of 50 percent formulas, 50 percent proofs, and 50 percent imagination."



"Mathematics consists in proving the most obvious thing in the least obvious way."

-George Polya

meet our new faculty



We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Michelle Nielsen** joined our faculty this year. Dr. Nielsen received her Ph.D. in May from the University of

Minnesota, specializing in the area of probability. As an undergraduate, Dr. Nielsen attended Bethel University (Minn.), so she understands the mission of a faith-based university. ■



Dr. George Moss joined the department last fall. He brings teaching experience from the University of Virginia-Wise and Lambuth

University. Dr. Moss' doctorate is from Virginia Tech in the area of applied mathematics, and he is also a graduate of nearby Haywood High School in Brownsville. Dr. Moss also serves as Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. ■

homecoming 2011

The Department of Mathematics is planning an alumni reunion during the 2011 homecoming celebration in the fall. Watch Union's homecoming announcements for details! ■

alumni news

Allen Smith ('04, math & computer science) and wife **Ruth**, also a Union alum, (chemistry), welcomed a new baby boy into their family on October 16. Eric Christopher Smith was born on October 16 and weighed 8 lbs., 2 oz.

Brian Taylor ('05, math & physics) has finished his doctorate in medical physics and is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Union mathematics alumni in

graduate programs include **Jennifer Ellis Belton** ('05, Univ. of Georgia); **Matthew Dawson** ('08, Louisiana State Univ.); **Robert Michael** ('08, Middle Tennessee State Univ.); and **Jacob White** ('10, Wake Forest, computer science).

Recent graduates teaching high school include **Kristin Kirk** ('09, South Gibson County High School) and **Peter Boedeker** ('10, University School of Jackson). ■