

## UNDERGRADUATE MATH SEMINAR

The next math seminar of the term will be:

**DATE:** **THURSDAY, October 26**

**Time &** 12:30 – Pizza in the **Bailey 204**

**Location:** 12:50 – 1:45 Seminar in **Bailey 207**



In this seminar, **Professor Nathaniel Whitaker**, the head of the Department of Math and Statistics at **UMass Amherst** will present the following talk: Professor Nathaniel Whitaker

### Title: A Mathematical Journey Through Segregation and Hidden Figures

**Abstract:** In this talk, I will describe my journey from segregation to becoming a research Mathematician of African descent, a rarity in mathematics. This journey is in the backdrop of Virginia’s massive resistance to integration and happened in the same community with the characters in the movie and book *Hidden Figures*. My journey continued in becoming the Department Head of a major research mathematics and statistics department and the Dean of a major research university. I will also describe briefly some of my research in fluid mechanics and math biology.

### A Terrific Math and Science (Online) Magazine: *Quanta Magazine*

If you enjoy reading about recent results in math and science and the people behind them, check out *Quanta Magazine*, [quantamagazine.org](http://quantamagazine.org). This publication is an “independent online publication launched by the Simons Foundation to enhance public understanding of science.” The articles there extraordinarily well written and engaging: *Quanta’s* description of its approach is “[o]ur work often resembles journalistic alchemy – we mash together the complexities of science with the malleable art of storytelling in an attempt to forge a precious new alloy.” A few recent math-related articles are entitled

- “[Echos of Electromagnetism Found in Number Theory](#)”
- “[The Deep Link Equating Math Proofs and Computer Programs](#)”
- “[Why Mathematical Proof Is a Social Compact](#)” with a Q&A with number theorist Andrew Granville.
- “[The Biggest Smallest Triangle Just Got Smaller](#)”

### A Couple of Fun Math Problems!

Looking for a couple of problems to keep your mathematical mind engaged? Well look no further (as we found variations of these somewhere online for you).

1. Which number is larger,  $999!$  or  $500^{999}$ ?
2. What is the largest number that is the product of positive integers whose sum is 1795 (Union’s founding year)?

For fame and glory, well, for recognition in an upcoming newsletter, submit your solution (with proof) to either or both problems to **Professor Paul Friedman** ([friedmap@union.edu](mailto:friedmap@union.edu)) by **noon on Friday, October 27**.

### Calculus Help Center: free calculus tutoring!

The Calculus Help Center (CHC) offers **free, drop-in, peer-tutoring** in calculus courses through Math 117. It is Sunday through Thursday, 7:30-10:00pm in the Sorum House seminar room.