

## UNDERGRADUATE MATH SEMINAR

After four seminars over the last two weeks, the seminar series is going to take a bit of a breather: no seminar this week! We hope, though, to see you studying together, working on homework, and socializing and perhaps also enjoying a cup of coffee in the Math Common Room, Bailey 204.

## Mayah Teplitskiy '24 Attends (and Presents at) Huge Math Conference

Every January, many major mathematics organizations in the United States, such as the American Mathematical Society (AMS), the Mathematics Association of America (MAA), the American Statistical Association (ASA), and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM), come together and hold the Joint Mathematics Meetings (JMM). This is touted as *the world's largest mathematics gathering*. This year's JMM took place January 3-6 in San Francisco. At this conference, Union College undergraduate, **Mayah Teplitskiy**, gave two talks. She also prepared the following piece for this math newsletter.

*This past week, I attended the 2024 JMM (Joint Math Meetings) in San Francisco. This is an enormous conference with up to 6,000 mathematicians from around the United States. It was a really great opportunity to present my research and get feedback from professionals in the field, while also networking with graduate schools and listening to my friends present on their research. There was a really cool installation of math art and it was nice to get a fully funded trip across the country to talk about math!*

## Union Math Department's Genealogy on Display

**Professor Kim Plofker** updated the display case on the second floor of Bailey Hall to show (some) "ancestors" of the current Union College Math Faculty. What is this? As Professor Plofker explains.

*"Many research fields, including mathematics, use genetic metaphors for academic connections.*

*Your most immediate "mathancestor" is usually considered to be your Ph.D. dissertation advisor – although it might be instead (or in addition) another research mentor, especially in earlier centuries before formal Ph. D-requirements.*

*Your advisor's other students are thus your "mathsiblings", and you might have hundreds of "mathcousins" of varying degrees.*

*If you teach doctoral students, you might even end up producing some "mathoffspring" of your own!"*

Take a look in the display cabinet and see who is related to whom and the many famous mathematicians in the lineages, including some you might have heard of in your classes: Fourier, Jacobi, Kummer, Lagrange, Weierstrass.

If you want to trace the ancestries back even further, visit [The Mathematics Genealogy Project](#), a service of the North Dakota State University Department of Mathematics, in association with the American Mathematical Society.

## Problem of the Newsletter – January 22, 2024

Congratulations to Union students **Hunter Gould** and **Sarah Morehouse**, and Union Librarian **John Myers** for submitting correct answers to last week's problem. A solution has been posted at the newsletter sites in Bailey Hall.

**This week's question:** While not a "true math" problem, try to determine which Union College Math faculty is/are related Isaac Newton and what their relationship is.

Submit your solution to **Prof. Paul Friedman** ([friedmap@union.edu](mailto:friedmap@union.edu)) by **noon on Friday, January 26**.