When: Friday, October 26, 2018  
Where: 1118 Rood Hall  
Time: 4:00 p.m.

Refreshments will be served at 3:45 p.m.

Title: An Afternoon with Euler

Abstract: Among history’s foremost mathematicians is Leonhard Euler (1707-1783). In this presentation, we sketch Euler’s life, discuss his voluminous mathematical output, and survey a few of his discoveries from number theory, geometry, and other branches of mathematics. We conclude with a proof—in full detail—of one of his greatest theorems: the solution of the “Basel Problem” from 1734. There, Euler found the exact value of the infinite series $1 + 1/4 + 1/9 + 1/16 + 1/25 + ...$ in a brilliant display of analytic wizardry. Tradition has it that Laplace described Euler as “the Master of Us All.” This talk should show why such a characterization is apt.

NOTE: This talk is accessible to any student who has had calculus.