



Speaker: Matt Gursky
University of Notre Dame

Thursday, December 1, 2011
2:00 PM
125 Hayes-Healy Hall

Title: Regularized determinants and conformally invariant operators

Abstract:

In this talk I will explain the idea of the regularized determinant of an elliptic operator, and a formula of Branson-Orsted for conformal variations of the determinant in four dimensions. The problem of understanding the variational structure of this formula was posed by Connes. In this talk I will describe some preliminary results, including a non-uniqueness result for critical points in the case of the sphere.