February 13, 2009

The Twenty Seventh Annual Friends of Mathematics Awards Banquet will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2009. Professor Dror Bar-Natan of the University of Toronto will be one of our distinguished guests.

Professor Bar-Natan will speak on "(u,v, and w knots) x (topology, combinatorics, low algebra, and high algebra)" in Throckmorton 1018 at 2:30pm that afternoon. Containing some discussion of knots and algebra, Dr. Bar-Natan's lecture should be accessible to non-mathematicians.

The evening festivities will begin with cider and conversation on the 2nd floor Concourse of the K-State Union at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Ballroom of the Union. Following the dinner our Distinguished Alumnus, Dr. Eric Gerelle, of IBEX Project Services, will speak to us on “The Calculus of Development”, and Professor Bar-Natan will also speak on “The Hardest Math I’ve Ever Really Used” after the presentation of awards. These talks will be comprehensible to most diners.

For students and their guests, the price of the banquet is $9.00 per person. For others, the price of the banquet is $18.00 per person.

Because Friends of Mathematics bears the cost of the banquet for the one-third of the diners who are honorees, ticket sales do not cover the cost of the banquet; and so, we request contributions beyond the price of the tickets in honor of our special guests. We are often asked about a donation amount, and we suggest paying for one honoree's dinner for each ticket purchased for yourself and your guests. Donations should be made on a separate check; the KSU Foundation will not acknowledge donations that cannot be easily distinguished from payment for services rendered.

We invite all friends and alumni to join us for this important event. Reservations should be made by Friday, March 27, 2009.