

To: All graduate students

From: Steve Bradlow (Director of Graduate Studies)

Re: Join a visitor for lunch!

Courtesy of the Graduate Office there is indeed a free lunch. Here's why:

There's more to graduate school than comps, prelims and a thesis. Not everything you really need to learn can be found in formal courses. Your time in graduate school should also provide your introduction to the mathematics research community. Amongst other things, this requires learning the customs of the community – how to “talk math” – and getting to know its members.

External seminar speakers and other visitors are a great resource for this purpose. They are, almost by definition, active participants – often leaders – in their research fields. Time spent with such visitors can be worth more than a whole semester of lectures and can be very useful for becoming integrated with a research community.

One of the great advantages of large active department such as ours is that it gets a steady stream of noteworthy visitors. These visitors present an opportunity that should be exploited to the full. An easy way to do so is by joining in social events such as lunches and dinners that are planned around such visitors.

To encourage you to do this, the Graduate Office is now offering to pay for your meal. (Well not quite: we'll subsidize up to \$8's worth). With Tori Corkery's help we have designed a handsome (and informative) lunch voucher for this purpose. Here's how it works:

- Before the meal collect a voucher from Marci in the Graduate Office.
- At some convenient point have the visitor sign the voucher.
- Return the voucher, with restaurant receipt attached, to either Mary or Karyn in the Business Office.
- Collect your reimbursement check when notified by the Business Office.