November 26: Eric Rains (UC Davis), "Vanishing integrals and symmetric spaces." FOLLOWED BY DINNER.

One particularly interesting consequence of the theory of symmetric spaces is that if one integrates a Schur function s_λ (i.e., an irreducible character of the unitary group) over the orthogonal group, the integral vanishes unless all parts of the partition lambda are even (when the integral is 1). I'll discuss some "quantum" generalizations of this fact, in which the Schur functions are replaced by Macdonald polynomials; I'll also discuss analogous integrals related to other classical symmetric spaces.