JOHN MEIER, Lafayette College *Geometric Realizations of Buildings*

A building Φ is a combinatorial object that come with an "*W*-valued distance function", where *W* is a Coxeter group. I will 'remind' everyone of the definitions and of two standard ways to give buildings a geometric structure. One is due to Tits, which works very well for spherical and Euclidean buildings, and another is due to Davis, that has been important in geometric group theory. A third approach is something of a hybrid, and it has been used recently in the computation of the compactly supported cohomology of buildings.

This is joint work with Davis, Dymara, Januszkiewicz and Okun.