TIMES UNION

Union College shows off 19th-century mathematical models

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Jeff Jauregui, an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Union College, talks about the Olivier Models that are part of a new exhibit, Probability & Uncertainty, on Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018, in Schenectady, N.Y. The models were made for French mathematician ThŽodore Olivier and were constructed in Paris in the 1830s. Olivier devised them to indicate the intersection of surfaces

SCHENECTADY — A demonstration on Thursday at the Mandeville Gallery at Union College showed off some of the mathematical models that are part of the exhibition Probability & Uncertainty.

Jeff Jauregui, assistant professor of mathematics, with the help of curator Julie Lohnes, demonstrated how Olivier models from the Union College Permanent Collection move and explained their purpose in the study of mathematics.

The models were made for French mathematician Théodore Olivier (1793-1853), who devised them to indicate the intersection of surfaces in his teaching of descriptive geometry.

This collection, constructed in Paris in the 1830s, is Olivier's original set, and they were the first models of this type that were adjustable.