

# MSCS



# Mess

Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science  
St. Olaf College  
Northfield, MN 55057

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## Senior Salute



Congratulations Seniors! You made it. This year's final issue of the MSCS Mess honors you and your accomplishments, past and immanent.

### **Christopher Ayre (Math):**

### **Elizabeth Ball (Math/Stats):**

My plans are to move to DC this summer where I will start a job as a research assistant at the Board of Governors on July 11. I'll be working in the flow of funds section of the division of research and statistics. I'll most likely stay there for a couple years while I make up my mind on whether to get a doctorate in economics, statistics, or public policy. I've had the best time in the math/stats department over the last several years. There I met some of my favorite profs, and made some of my best friends. I came to St. Olaf with mathematics last on my list, and now I can't imagine what my experience here would have been without it. Many thanks to all.

### **Bjorn Berg (Math/Stats):**

"Clever liars give details, but the cleverest don't."  
-Anonymous

### **Lauren Benson (Math/Math Ed):**

Following graduation I will be moving down to the Milwaukee area. I recently got a job as a 7th and 8th grade math teacher at Riverview School in Silver Lake, Wisconsin. I am very excited about this job, and I am looking forward to passing on my love for mathematics to my students!

### **Erika Blomquist (Math/Math Ed):**

### **Nicole Bohme (Math/Stats):**

This summer I'll be spending some much needed time at home, indulging my librarian tendencies. In the fall I'm headed for Seattle to study for my PhD in statistics at the University of Washington, hopefully ending up with work in international public health.

### **Caleb Buecksler (Math):**

As of right now, I have a summer job in a chemistry lab with Hormel Foods of Austin, MN, the makers of Spam. After that it is a bit of a question mark, but right now the tentative plan is to earn a little money working and then go to

graduate school in the fall (program and school to be determined).

**Zane Buxton (Math):**

Following graduation, Zane will be hitchhiking his way back to the great state of Ohio where he will spend a year of indentured servitude working on his brother's farm to repay his debt to society for all his lame puns (and work off his debt to his parents for paying for college). After a year of back-breaking work, sleeping in the hay loft and living off a meager supply of government cheese, he will be putting his wit and brawn to work in the Peace Corps in Africa.

**Carl Carlson (Math):**

**Veronica Cherne (Stats):**

**Knut Christianson (Math):**

After graduating with a physics, mathematics and Norwegian major, I plan to spend the 2005-2006 year in Norway as part of a Fulbright grant. While there I will take classes in geophysics at the University Center on Svalbard and conduct research on selected glaciers in the Svalbard archipelago. When I return to the US in the summer of 2006, I plan to begin studies at the Pennsylvania State University in the Geosciences PhD program.

**Patrick Clancey (Math):**

**Robert Crawford (Math/CS):**

Robert Crawford is a Mathematics and Computer Science Major, who will be sure to let you know about his future plans as soon as he has a clue about what they might be.

**Janine Dahl (Math):**

This fall I am going to Rice in Houston for graduate school, where I plan to study pure mathematics and have coffee with Sujeev every day. I'm still

sad that Noah and I never stayed on the couches in the lobby overnight, and that I never got up to level seven with my origami skills. I'll miss the cookies during finals, and I hope that Sarah gets as much action in Complex as I did.

**Stephanie Dalager (Math/Stats):**

**Brendan Eagan (Math):**

This summer I plan to go to Japan to do a photo-documentary of hidden Christians on a freeman grant. I then plan to work in Madison while I decide which of my two majors I would like to continue to pursue in grad school.

**Nate Earley (Math/Math Ed):**

This fall, I'm moving on to student teaching at Hopkins. I hope to learn a lot, but reflect on how much I've learned minimally. After that, odd jobs, and then teaching in some form, or possibly grad school. Thanks to St. Olaf for all the great math classes - they really expanded my mind. All of my questions were answered, except for one: when am I ever gonna use this?

**Ryan Egan (Math/Stats):**

My concrete plan is to work in St. Paul for the MN Department of Revenue in the Withholding Tax Division. My other future plan involves using my math knowledge to master the art of blackjack, making millions, and then retiring to Fiji.

**Steven Engle (Math):**

Farewell to the St. Olaf Math department... and English Department... and CS Department... hmm... couldn't really decide what I was supposed to be doing, could I? Thanks for all of your help over the last four years. I've enjoyed my time here and hope to stay connected to the college throughout my life. I am off into the "real world" next year, looking for a job with, surprise!, colleges in the area in either admissions or IT. Suggestions accepted!

**Anna Ericksen (Math/Stats):**

After graduation I am flying off to Norway for three weeks to tour with the St Olaf Orchestra. Next fall I will attend Iowa State University to pursue a PhD. in Statistics. Since I can only imagine the extreme time commitment of grad school, I am planning to spend the remainder of my summer planning all arrangements for my 2006 July wedding with my high school sweetheart.

**Aaron Etshokin (Math/CS):**

After a successful internship with Securian Financial Group's Information Services department in St. Paul, I have accepted a full-time position with the company in the same department. I will miss the incredible amount of time spent in OMH 300 (the CS lab) working on various projects, all the while dodging the ever-present wasps who happily made their nest in the ceiling of that room. Here's to hoping that future CS and math students need not fear for their health while working on various projects!

**Tricia Foster (Math):****Kelly Fulton (Math):**

Next year I'll be headed to Montana State University - Bozeman to study architecture. This summer I will work in a bike shop, gather the proper goods for a 4,000 mile bike trip from Tacoma, Washington to Richmond, Virginia - to be ridden the following summer. It should be fun. Yeah math.

**Ross Fulton (Math/Stats):**

Ross Fulton is a biology and math major from Billings, Montana. He is a two-year member of the clarinet section who bears a striking resemblance to Harry Potter. This summer, Ross will be taking organic chemistry in Montana, something he neglected to finish while at St. Olaf. Next year he will be attending The University of Iowa to pursue a PhD in microbiology. He looks

forward to becoming a hawk, terrorizing Iowa City, and playing the clarinet if time permits.

**Rylan Gibbens (CS):****Daniel Grindstaff (Math/Stats):****Jennifer Groth (Stats):****Matt Handley (Math/CS):**

Matt is graduating with a math and a CS major. He is currently hard on the heels of late graduate schools (UIC and Notre Dame) as well as the job market. In some perfect world, he would program games all day, but right now, he'd settle for an income above \$7.40/hour, so he can actually pay for his honeymoon this summer. He would like to "shout out" to all the graphics folks out there, who he's indebted to for their dedication and overall happiness during the setup and presentation of the lab. Senior Week party in SC186, anyone?

**Daniel Hansen (Math):****Janette Herbers (Math/Stats):**

I suppose I might as well admit that math is more of a hobby for me than a profession. I enjoyed my math major particularly because of the great professors and other students in the math department. I will continue to use my statistics next fall, when I start the PhD program at the Institute of Child Development at the University of Minnesota.

**Matt Hunter (Math):**

At the end of June, I will start a one-year MAT program through the University of Alaska Southeast. If I still want to teach high school math and physics after I finish the MAT, I will. Otherwise I will be looking for another career that will allow me to live in Alaska and have my summers off.

**Katie James (Stats):**

Katie James, a double major in biology and psychology with a statistics concentration, will be attending the University of Minnesota School of Public Health in the fall of 2005. She plans to pursue a career in epidemiology.

**Lindsey Johnson (Math):**

Next year I will be attending Hamline Law School in St. Paul. Thanks to all, especially Professor McKelvey and Professor Zorn, for such a great experience in math.

**Nate Johnson (Math/Stats):**

After graduation I will be attending graduate school at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. While there I will be pursuing my MBA in finance for the next two years. After this I hope to find a job in the Twin Cities area.

**Mark Kingsbury (Math/Stats/Math Ed):**

Mark H. Kingsbury will spend the summer by a lake in Northern Minnesota building wood/canvas canoes, swimming, and swatting mosquitoes. The following fall, Mr. Kingsbury will entertain/frighten 10th and 11th grade pre-adults by student-teaching them mathematics at Lakeville South High School in southern Lakeville. Spring 2006, Kingsbury will replace Lynn Arthur Steen as "that guy who isn't around ever." Thanks for the memories, MSCS!

**Thomas Kortuem (Math):****Sara Krohn (Math/Stats):**

To delay finding a real job as long as possible, I will spend my summer bartending at my local golf course, attending baseball games, fishing, and playing math games. In the fall I will be attending graduate school at the University of Minnesota in statistics for as long as they will support me. Thank you to the math professors and fellow Oles who helped me discover my inner geek.

**Patrick Krueger (Math/Stats):****Kevin Kubista (Math):**

After graduating from St. Olaf College I will be attending Georgia Tech, in hopes of obtaining my PhD in physics.

**Joshua Langhorst (Math):****Nicholas Larson (Math/Stats):**

School has taken its toll and I need a break from the tedium of classes. After graduation I plan on chasing my lifelong dream... to be a renaissance fair joustier. After touring the country clad in iron armor for a year, I plan on hanging up my lance and pursuing a Ph.D. in statistical genetics, hopefully graduating in a timely enough fashion to attain a career working in oncology and disease research... or breeding a genetically engineered zombie army, whatever works.

**Angela Liesmaki (Math):**

After being at St. Olaf for four years, I have decided what I will be doing with the rest of my life! However, for now my plans will be delayed one year. I will be working in the cities for this coming year, but still do not know where that will be. Next year, I will be applying to graduate school in architecture. This is the direction that I am planning on heading towards and am extremely excited about it! I am pleased to know that I will be leaving St. Olaf with a math and studio art double major and am lucky to have had the opportunity to combine these two majors into an independent study on the Geometry of Art. I see an interesting experience ahead of me and I can't wait to get out there and accomplish what I have been working for! Thanks to all my professors in the math department for a great four years!

**Brian Linne (Math):**

After taking two months of leisure time this summer, I am excited to join Deloitte Consulting

as a Business Analyst in August. When not traveling nearly perpetually for work, I will be living in the Uptown area of Minneapolis with two other Oles. An advanced degree, most likely an MBA is the plan after two or three years in the real world.

**Tom Noah Loome (Math/Math Ed):**

In several weeks I will be traveling to India to hang out as well as student-teach at Professor Zorn's old high school (Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu). I will be there until December, at which point I will take a steamboat across the Arabian Sea to Oman. From Oman I will stroll down to Yemen and learn some Arabic. I'll return to the good old USA at some point.

**Adam McDougall (Math):**

**David Middlecamp (CS):**

I'll be spending the next year developing a few independent projects I'm very excited about, hopefully with a few Oles (hint). From there my master plan extends to graduate school, and then ... the world! Thanks St. Olaf! (Shout out to the CS Dept!)

**Julia Molony (Math/Stats):**

I can still remember the day during the spring of my freshman year when I realized that I wanted to major in mathematics. Then a physics major, I was sitting in the math hallway waiting to ask a question about Linear Algebra. The friendly conversations between faculty and the shining faces of students working together all around me expressed the overall feel of the department of which I wanted to be a part. I haven't looked back since and have greatly enjoyed my experience. Next year I will take my statistics and applied mathematics knowledge to Washington DC where I will serve a one year fellowship working for a research group at the National Institute of Mental Health. Assuming I love my job and want to learn more, I plan to enroll in graduate

school the following fall and begin working toward a graduate degree in statistics.

**Angela Morley (Math):**

**Chris Mueller (CS):**

With any luck, I'll be the first Ole to set foot on Mars.

**Alison Newgard (Math):**

After graduation, I am heading to Norway with the St.Olaf Orchestra. Then I will be moving to Chicago where I will attend the University of Illinois School of Dentistry. I will miss the good times I had while doing math homework with Kristine and Julia, particularly the time when Prof. Hanson asked us to write a poem about complex integration and then we dramatically read them to each other.

**Matt Nyflot (Math):**

I'll be working toward a PhD in Medical Physics at UW Madison in the fall.

**Robert Orme (Math):**

I'm going to start by taking a year off to get a number of things accomplished. Among these are writing stories, attempting to get my first novel published, and working with my friend on getting his new band together, on the road, and (at some point) in the recording studio. I also plan to check out graduate schools with the goal of obtaining a PhD in Math after my year off. This will hopefully lead to a career in solving Math problems for a comfortable salary.

**Brian Peters (Math/Stats):**

Travel Europe. All of it. Come back in August, move to Chicago, start my real job as an actuary at Watson Wyatt Worldwide. The math, stats, econ, and finance courses I took here should be a help.

**Andrea Rau (Math/Stats):**

This fall I will be entering the PhD program in statistics at Purdue University - pretty crazy for someone who didn't intend to major in math at St. Olaf in the first place! Thanks to the faculty and staff for all the time you have put into making this a successful program, and best of luck to all the seniors next year.

**Chris Remien (Math):**

This summer I will be in Maine guiding canoeing and hiking trips. After that, I plan on pursuing my lifelong dream of a modeling career. In order to learn how to create these models accurately, I will attend graduate school somewhere at some point in time.

**Anthony Rogers (Math/Stats):**

**Robert Rozeske II (Stats):**

**Jason Saccomano (Math):**

After graduation, I'm moving back to Denver, CO for a year, and I'll probably have a non-math job for a while. Afterwards, I plan to attend graduate school and pursue a PhD in pure math.

**Andrew Savaloja (Stats):**

**Daniel Sinykin (Math):**

I plan on leaving much behind and embarking on all sorts of adventures.

**Mark Skeba (Math):**

I am thankful for my parents whose influence has been "integral" to my success at Olaf. Their love has been without "limit". I appreciate the "infinite" amount of time my professors invested and the countless "additions" they made to my career at Olaf. Lastly, I need to "factor" in my friends who always put up with me whether I was being "real" or completely "irrational". The past four years have gone "exponentially" fast. Thanks!

**Michael Smith (CS):**

The CS department is super. Yes, we're geeks, but we wield tremendous power, like 10th level black mages!!! No, I won't fix your computer. I need to find employment first, preferably developing guidance software for intercontinental ballistic missiles, because hey, you've got to follow your conscience.

**Pokie Speare (Math):**

Once upon a time, there was a physics and math major named Pocahontas, who decided to get a job as a computer programmer. She went to career fairs, filled out applications, got recommendations, took tests, and finally, won success. A fair and noble company named Epic Systems (of wide renown for their skill and prowess at making software for hospitals) wisely decided to employ our heroine. She accepted, looking forward to experiencing the strange ways of this land, far far away (Madison, WI) -- activities like eating squeaky cheese curds! After a year or two, she plans to resume her pursuit of a PhD in physics (String theory?), after, of course, defeating the evil dragon, the physics G.R.E.'s! Fortunately, she is not alone in her quest, for a multitude of friends and family have gathered to show their support. With the help of a talking, magical frog, they succeed, bring peace and freedom to the land, and all live happily ever after. The End.

**Big D (Andrew Sperling) (Math):**

I proved Goldbach's conjecture, but this margin is not large enough to include a proof.

**Doug Stone (Math):**

Immediately after graduation I am leaving to tour Norway with the St. Olaf Band. Upon my return I will be going to graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to study physics.

**Brian Strand (Math/Math Ed):**

After graduation, I will be working for the Upward Bound summer program. Following, I plan to find a cool part time job (possibly in the pizza making industry) somewhere in the Twin Cities. Starting next fall, I will be student-teaching at Humboldt Junior High School in St. Paul. I also have a desire to start a fast hardcore band in the vein of *Tear It Up* and *Crispus Attacks*.

**David Strand (Math):**

**Kristine Thomsen (Math/Stats):**

After graduation I will travel in Europe for two months. When I return I hope to work for a year doing statistics, and then I am planning to attend graduate school in biostatistics. Thanks to all of my professors who have challenged and encouraged me over the past four years.

**Eli Townsend (Math):**

Goodbye Olaf math. The last four years have been great; I enjoyed every Mathematics course I took and wish I could have taken more. Next year I am going to work for Target using the analytical skill I have gained. I hope to go to business school after 2 or 3 years and get a job working for another one of America's evil empires. Life should be quite alright.

**Justin E. Von Stroh (CS):**

Having learned the requisite skills to plot a take-over bid of the world, Sir. Von Stroh plans to use these skills to make the great state of Colorado the center of world power. Posing as a law student at the University of Denver's Sturm College of law, he will run the world through a puppet regime. In addition, his computer science degree will enable him to program all computers in the world to force their users to take a break once in a while and have some fun. Of course, if his world domination bid goes sour (or he just doesn't like it), he'll always have the law school gig to fall back on and can institute his own computer

program of fun for himself. No matter what, he plans to live a full, productive, and fun life.

**Emily Weninger (Math):**

I don't have a lot to report, since I don't have a definite plan yet, but I know that I want to go into environmental economics and statistics in some way. What I'd most like to do with this space is tell each of you how much I enjoyed going through the math major with you. It was a lot of fun, and even though I won't be there on the 29<sup>th</sup> (I'll still be at the London School of Economics), I'll be thinking about you all. Best wishes.

**Elizabeth White (Math/Math Ed):**

Next fall I will be student teaching in Apple Valley at Eastview high school. After that the plans are to go out to Montana and find a job teaching high school. It'd be great to be assistant coach for their cross-country team too. After a few years I'd like to go to grad school and get a masters... maybe a PhD? These past four years have been awesome: I've had wonderful times with you fellow majors, and I've had some great profs. Thanks.

**Heather Wiste (Math/Stats):**

After graduation I will move back home to Houston, MN. While there I will continue to search for a job in biostatistics but most likely end up becoming a nanny to my new nephew who is due this summer. Once I find employment, I hope to work for a year and then go to graduate school for my PhD in biostatistics. I want to thank all of the professors that have supported and encouraged me during the last four years.

**Marni Worlein (Math):**