

Math Mess

Department of Mathematics
St. Olaf College
Northfield, MN 55057

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This Week's Mathematics Colloquium

Title: Tailgate Party

Speakers: Math Department Faculty

Time: Thursday, Sept 20th, 4pm.

Place: OMH Courtyard

Welcome (Back)

Welcome to the first issue of the Math Mess for the academic year '01-'02. For those of you new to the Math Mess (MM), this is a weekly departmental newsletter devoted to information of interest to mathematics, computer science, and statistics students. We give details on the week's colloquium speaker (more about this later), departmental announcements and activities, opportunities for students, the problem of the week, and many other scintillating tidbits.

Opening Colloquium a Real Picnic

This Thursday the 2001-2002 Colloquium Mathematics Series kicks off with a tail-gate party beginning at 4:00 in the courtyard just north of OMH. There will be a bratwurst-hotdog-veggydog

cookout with plenty of fixins so mark this one down as a "must attend".

No specific talk is planned, but we'll ask each prof to say a bit about themselves, what they're teaching this term, what their interests and hobbies are, just the sort of thing you need to know for future reference. Watch out for Peder Bolstad, though, he'll be on his usual picture prowl. Rumor has it that at least one C. Thomforde has this event penned into his social calendar.

We heard via the grapevine that several first year students who missed the event last year were still gnashing their teeth when the spring thaw finally came, so don't miss it! It'll be great fun with good food and an informal time to meet the profs.

SEE YOU THERE!!

Who are we?

The Department of Mathematics consists of 23 faculty members, 1 administrative assistant, 50 or 60 math majors *per year*, and several hundred students taking math, cs, and stats courses at any given time. Directors of various programs housed in the math department are listed below.

- Matt Richey, Chair of Mathematics
- Michael Kahn, Director of Statistics
- Richard Brown, Director of CS
- Martha Wallace, Math Education Guru
- Donna Brakke, Administrative Assistant

Colloquiums

Nearly every Thursday throughout the semester a speaker is invited to give a mathematics talk aimed at, and of interest to, undergraduates who are not necessarily math majors. Next week's MM will announce our first speaker of the term.

Math Clinics

Peder Bolstad, Acting Director of the Academic Support Center, is in charge of staffing and running the math clinics Sunday through Thursday every week. Students in Math 109, 120/122, 126/128 and Stats 110 can get help from student tutors. Hours for the math clinics are listed in "The Book" on page 107.

New Faces

Those of you familiar with the math department will notice a couple of new faces this year. Julie Legler and Doreen Hamilton have joined us this year and will be teaching various math courses. More extensive profiles of these two will grace this page in weeks to come.

Special Talk!!!

Ever wonder about the pre-history of CS? Check out the following presentation (jointly sponsored by the Mathematics and German Departments):

Professor Dr. Ludolf von Mackensen
 "Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716) And the
 Origins of Calculating Machines"
 Wednesday, Sept. 19th
 Buntrock Room 142
 4:00-5:00 pm

Announcements

Anyone interesting in reviewing for the GRE in Mathematics should contact Doreen Hamilton at x3861 or hamiltod@stolaf.edu.

Problem of the Week

Every week the MM ends with a problem and solicits solutions from MM readers. Solutions are "graded" and printed in the following week's MM (if you can convince the problems editor that your solution is correct).

And here's your first one...

Find (or show that there does not exist) a natural number such that, when the last digit is removed and placed at the front, the number is doubled.

*** Please submit all solutions to Cliff Corzatt (corzatt@stolaf.edu) by noon on Friday.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Math Mess in your P.O. Box weekly, please e-mail Donna Brakke at brakke@stolaf.edu.

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