MSCS MESS

Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science
St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057
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Monday's Colloquium

Title: Network science: understanding the interconnected world around us
Time: Monday, February 20, 3:30pm
Place: RNS 310

Tuesday's Research Seminar

Title: A complex networks approach to data science: modeling, representation and analysis of interconnected large-scale data structures
Time: Tuesday, February 21, 2:00pm
Place: RNS 204

Wednesday's Colloquium

Title: Dynamic Programming: So You Wanna be a Rock and Roll Star?
Time: Wednesday, February 22, 3:30pm
Place: RNS 310

Thursday's Research Seminar

Title: Computation and Simulation in DNA Algorithmic Self-assembly
Time: Thursday, February 23, 3:00pm
Place: RNS 203

Math candidate talks this week

In February, MSCS faculty candidates will give talks, offering students and faculty the opportunity to hear about their expertises. This week, one speaker is a mathematician and the other is a computer scientist; each will deliver both a colloquium talk and a research seminar. To learn more about the speakers and their talks, hunt around for posters in the RMS halls. We hope to see you at some of the events this week welcoming the final two candidates!

Math across the Cannon talks

This year's Math Across the Cannon lectures are now less than two weeks away! Our speaker will be Prof. Ken Ono, a world renowned Combinatorist and Number Theorist from Emory University. Prof. Ono will be in Northfield to deliver **two** lectures that you won't want to miss on Thursday March 2.

The afternoon talk, hosted by Carleton College, will introduce math majors to exciting topics from Prof. Ono's research program. The evening, general audience talk, here at St. Olaf will focus on the lasting impact Ramanujan's work has had on mathematics. (Prof. Ono is an Associate Producer of the film The Man Who Knew Infinity (starring Dev Patel and Jeremy Irons) about Ramanujan.)

More information about the talks, their times and locations is available at:
http://pages.stolaf.edu/diveris/2017/02/16/math-across-the-cannon-2017/

A different Budapest experience

You may know about the acclaimed Budapest Semesters in Mathematics (BSM) program, and our interim number theory course in Budapest (MATH 239). But you may not know that there's a new opportunity for students interested in *mathematics education*.

Budapest Semesters in Mathematics **Education** (BSME) is a semester-long study-

abroad program. At BSME, students explore the Hungarian approach to learning and teaching, in which a strong and explicit emphasis is placed on problem solving, mathematical creativity, and communication. BSME welcomes students who are (1) currently pursuing secondary mathematics teaching license, (2) planning to pursue other paths to mathematics licensure, or (3) simply curious about learning and teaching of mathematics. To learn more about BSME, visit the program's website at bsmeducation.com.

BSME is currently accepting applications for the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semesters. If you're interested in this opportunity, please contact Prof. Matsuura (matsuura@stolaf.edu) right away, since the St. Olaf deadline for applying to study-abroad programs is approaching soon (February 27).

Calling all aRtists

Have you ever had an R plot go horrendously wrong? The answer is probably yes, but fear not, now you can show the entire world your terrible plots in the form of modern aRt! If you'd like your aRt displayed on the RMS Math Club Board please send a copy of your plot to roiger1@stolaf.edu along with a cool title and whether or not you'd like your name displayed with your art!

Would you like to edit the Mess?

The current MSCS Mess editor being a senior, we are looking for an MSCS-affiliated student to compile and distribute the Mess next year. This work-study job involves communicating with members of the MSCS faculty, student leaders, and—the biggest treat of all—Mess Czar Haberoth in order to provide a resource keeping the St. Olaf community abreast of exciting MSCS happenings. The editor next year should be familiar with typesetting in LaTeX, be excited about networking within the department, and be (ideally but not necessarily) a current sophomore. If interested, email the current Mess editor, Corey Brooke, at brooke@stolaf.edu.

Black history in MSCS

Each week of Black History Month, the Mess will include some information about an African American who contributed significantly to mathematics, statistics, or computer science. In this issue, we commemorate Annie Easley, a computer engineer whose career at NASA, spanning 34 years, involved developing computer code to explore questions surrounding different energy and power sources. Easley's work especially enabled designing the Centaur, a rocket stage used in several launch vehicles. The history of computer science being tainted by racism and misogyny (as with mathematics and statistics), Easley persevered in the face of blatant and subtle discrimination, saying that "when people have their biases and prejudices, yes, I am aware. My head is not in the sand. But my thing is, if I can't work with you, I will work around you. I was not about to be so discouraged that I'd walk away. That may be a solution for some people, but it's not mine." Outside of her NASA career, Easley held classes in her community to help fellow black Alabamans pass voter literacy tests prior to the Voting Rights Act. Experiences similar to Easley's are depicted in the recent film *Hidden Figures* based on Margot Lee Shetterly's book by the same name.

To submit an article or event for publication in the Mess, email brooke@stolaf.edu*; to receive the Mess digitally each Friday, email* freking@stolaf.edu*; visit* http://wp.stolaf.edu/mscs/mscs-mess/ *for a digital archive of previous MSCS Mess issues.*

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