MSCS Mess

This Week's Colloquium

Title:	Some International Flavors of Real Analysis
Speakers:	Professors Elzbieta Wagner-Bojakowska and Malgorzata Filipczak
Time:	1:30 pm (Treats at 1:15) Tuesday, December 5
Place:	SC 182

Abstract: Outstanding teachers and researchers, Professors Wagner-Bojakovska and Filipczak, are visiting St. Olaf for two weeks as part of a cooperative agreement between Lodz University in Poland and St. Olaf College. During the Colloquium on Tuesday they will give some insight into the type of research problems St. Olaf students will be working on this summer in Lodz. Come see what this is all about, and visit with them about the differences between the systems of higher education in Europe and the United States. Their visit is sponsored by a three year IRES grant from National Science Foundation, which also pays for three St. Olaf students to spend the summer researching (mathematics!) in Europe.

Come Bowl with the Math Profs!

Ever wonder what your professors are like outside of the classroom? Here is your chance to find out! Next Wednesday, December 6th, is the annual Bowling with the Professors night at 7:30 PM. Shoe rentals cost $2.00, and each round of bowling costs $3.75. Please bring the two-for-the-price-of-one coupon you received in your coupon booklet at the beginning of the year to help cut the costs for everyone. If you need a ride, please e-mail reedt@stolaf.edu.

Get Creative...

The MAA is hosting the annual math t-shirt logo contest. So get out your thinking caps or submit a previously used logo if you know a particularly Mathtastic one. Two winners will receive a free math t-shirt of their choice! Submissions must be sent to Tyson Reed's P.O. Box or e-mail reedt@stolaf.edu by Dec 9th.

Jokes for Geeks

A mathematician is in Africa trying to capture a lion. When he spots one he proceeds to build a fence around himself and says, "I define this to be outside!"

Problem of the Week (POW)

Setting the Peg Higher. Here's a problem to keep you busy over the holidays. Each integer grid point in the plane on or below the x-axis is occupied by a peg. You may jump any peg over a neighbor peg, horizontally or vertically, removing the peg jumped over, and landing on an empty grid point. Can you get a peg arbitrarily far above the x-axis? If not, how far up can you get? Extra challenge: What if diagonal jumps are allowed?

Submit all solutions before the appearance of the next problem to Josh Laison in person, by e-mail (laison@stolaf.edu), or by a sleigh pulled by flying reindeer. The first correct solution gets a prize; all correct solutions get fame and glory. Preference for the prize goes to problem-solvers who haven't won one yet.

Update on All Isosceles: Josh has not yet received a solution for the problem All Isosceles. Everyone gets some more time to work on it. Solutions to What's My Line? and All Isosceles will be posted along with the solution for Not Equal Rectangles? at the beginning of second semester. I promise.

If you would like to submit an article or math event to be published in the Math Mess, e-mail meyerm@stolaf.edu or dolank@stolaf.edu.