

MSCS MESS

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

Title: The Power of Mathematics Teaching in an Age of Alternative Facts

Speaker: David Kung

Date: Monday, Oct. 9th | 3:30 p.m.

Place: RNS 310

About the talk: Most citizens spend years in our mathematics classes before they ever cast a vote. Are we preparing them to be responsible, informed participants in a thriving democracy? What mathematics is required to understand current events, critically examine issues of social and economic justice, and properly evaluate public policy proposals? What can educators who teach mathematics do to fight back against the rise of alternative facts? We will discuss example problems, student projects, and pedagogical choices that push us in the direction of a more just world.

**ALTERNATIVE
FACTS ARE**



Harmonious Equations:

Exploration of Math & Music

Speaker: David Kung & St. Olaf Quartet

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 9th | 7:30 p.m.

Place: Viking Theater

About the event: Mathematical concepts will come to life with musical examples played by a string quartet comprised of the speaker and St. Olaf Students!



Interested in Biostatistics?

The University of Washington is launching a new 18-month M.S. degree in biostatistics this year! Applications close December 1st, 2017. For more information, e-mail habero1@stolaf.edu or go online to <http://www.biostat.washington.edu/program/degrees/ms/capstone>.

Problem Solving Club!

Next meeting will be Wednesday, Oct 11, 4:30-5:30 in RNS 206. All are welcome to join in for an afternoon of interesting math problems. If you can't make it to the meeting but want to follow along with us, check out our website: <https://pages.stolaf.edu/diveris/category/ps/>.

ASA Twin Cities Research Conference

Interested in statistics, research, or all of the above? The American Statistical Society is hosting a research conference at the *University of St. Thomas*, on *Monday October 9th from 8:30am-4:30pm*. Our very own Paul Roback will be speaking at 1:00pm, discussing research from a past CIR project, so come check it out if you can!

Calling All aRtists

Ever made a no-good, really bad, terrible plot in R? Me neither. But if someone YOU know has, please email roiger1@stolaf.edu to have your aRt on display in the RMS hallway.

History in Context

On October 12th, 1929, Edwin Abbott, author of *Flatland*, died in London, England. First published in 1884, the book was subtitled *A romance of many dimensions*, and its author given as A Square.

To submit an article or event for publication in the mess, email nevilleq@stolaf.edu; to receive the Mess digitally each Friday, email habero1@stolaf.edu; visit <http://wp.stolaf.edu/mscs/mscs-mess/> for a digital archive of previous MSCS Mess issues.

Weekly Theorem

Penguin Theorem– Penguins are not real.

Proof. All penguins are from the South Pole and no penguins are from the North Pole. This implies that all penguins live below the zero equator. Moreover, it is very cold and blue at the South Pole, so it follows directly that they must be of a negative disposition. Additionally, they always wear tuxedos, even when the event you have invited them to is informal, which is quite radical. As negative radicals, penguins must be imaginary, and therefore, cannot be real. ■

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