

Math



Mess

Department of Mathematics
St. Olaf College
Northfield, MN 55057

May 12, 2003
Volume 31, No. 25

The Senior Salute!



We Tip Our Hats

Congratulations to all you seniors for being such stalwart members of the St. Olaf mathematics community! We appreciate all you have given us—your time, your energy, your sense of humor, and your social life. This year's final issue of the Math Mess celebrates not only what you seniors have already accomplished, but what you most certainly will achieve in the years to come. Listed below are synopses of what your exciting futures hold.

Jayne Andrews:

I will be working for Target Corporation as a Business Analyst.

Traci Bartz:

This summer I will be doing ecological research at Cedar Creek Natural Area north of the cities, playing outside and enjoying work-free weekends. Next fall I will hopefully be moving to St. Paul with

friends, finding a job to pay rent, living and playing. I will enjoy doing many non-school related things, but will be able to manage my budget well due to the fabulous mathematical training I got at St. Olaf.

Rachel Belter:

After receiving my diploma, I will be packing up and moving to Washington, D.C. to try my hand at the political world. My math knowledge may take a backseat at this point except if I am ever asked to calculate the number of votes required for my party to win the 2004 elections with a 3% margin of error. After approximately $(2+n)$ years, I will return to school to acquire a degree in law and public policy. A big THANK YOU to my professors for all their time and patience. I'll always remember Budapest, Minitab, calculating the volume of the water tower while lying in the middle of the street, and taking the *Lord of the Rings* personality test in the math lab. UM YAH YAH!

Jake Bullard:

I have accepted a job at Cima Labs in Brooklyn Park, MN as an analytical chemist. After working for a year or two I will probably go to graduate school in analytical or physical chemistry.

Kerry Childers:

I will be the executive vice president of MTV. I will be the singer for a ska band called Ms. Pacman & the ? Eaters. I will be the US Ambassador to Canada. I will be a middle or high school Math teacher. I will be prom queen. I will buy a pizza. Isn't that good enough?!? OK FINE! I'll have a liter o' cola too.

David Choukalas:

My plans are pretty simple. I hope to be teaching somewhere in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. If this fails, I will find a 24-hour all you can eat restaurant, find a booth by the window and live there.

Matthew Christianson:

After wrapping up some chemistry research on campus at the beginning of the summer and being a bum at home for the rest of the summer, I am planning to move to Madison Wisconsin in August. There I will start work on a Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Sonja Clark:

After pursuing my statistical interests while studying the mating patterns of penguins in Antarctica, I plan on founding a commune in the Ozarks and living off of nut butter. Actually, my career plans are as of yet undetermined, but the above possibilities are beginning to look very appealing. I hope to find a job that unites my passions for social justice and statistics, either in the Twin Cities, or back home in Seattle. Practicum RuleZ, and so does Febey. Out.

Rachel Colson:

My plans for next year include spending the year doing missions work with Young Adult Service Corps, an international service program of the Episcopal Church. In Fall 2004 I will begin law school, most likely at Syracuse University.

Ross Cram:

After graduation I'm heading out to Seattle for the summer, working at who knows what, perhaps throwing fish. Afterwards I'll be road tripping across the country for the month of September, followed by 3 months of living in Minneapolis working at some job, perhaps. And then hopefully on to graduate school in Environmental Engineering at the University of Iowa.

Will D'Ambruoso:

After graduation, Abby (my fiancée) and I will push our 1985 Ford all the way out to the Bay Area. Because of my poor attention span and lack of work ethic in statistics classes (the only area that might have actually landed me a job in the real world), I will set upon my own extremities for food. Following a nice drumstick and a wing, I will try my severed hand at teaching/tutoring.

Anna Daniels:

I will be living and working (job specifics t.b.a.) in the cities for the next year. In that time I plan to decide on a few graduate schools and apply to their biostatistics programs for the following year.

Megan Daymont:

After I graduate I'm going to hang out for most of the summer in St. Louis Park where a bunch of my friends are going to be living. I start working at Target as a Business Analyst at the end of July and that is pretty much it!

Matthew Donald:

After graduation, I'll first be heading west to spend the summer at Christikon, a summer camp just south of Big Timber, Montana. Then, after three months in the mountains, I will be heading even further west to Seattle, where, as a member of Lutheran Volunteer Corps, I will be working as Volunteer Coordinator for a small non-profit organization called Washington's National Parks Fund.

Amanda Febey:

When I am not counting my pirate booty I will be spending my summer with the National Security Agency. In the fall I will either be applying for a full time job with the NSA or looking in the Twin Cities for a job. Next year I would like to go to graduate school. If nothing listed above works out then I will just live with Sonja for the rest of my life.

Andy Feig:

I'm getting married in June, and if I'm lucky I might even be employed somewhere eventually!

Jami Feyereisn:

My plans after graduating from St. Olaf are that I am going to student teach next year very close to Northfield, and then teach middle school math! I am also going to look into other math jobs, and keep my options open for other opportunities!

Richard Fritz:

For the summer I will be living with my parents in Chicago and attending as many baseball games as possible, then I start my lease September 1st in L.A. and will be moving out there to live. In L.A. I will pursue an acting and screenwriting career.

Jason Grimm:

I will spend the summer sitting in the darkest corner of the dirtiest coffee shop I can find, reading all of the good literature that I missed in the past four years. After that, alas, I will be kicked out of

my house and forced into the real world. I have accepted a position in the Banking Analysis section of the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, DC. I will be moving to Washington in late August.

Hans Grinager:

After Graduation, Hans will take a 5-week job spraying mosquitoes for the rich and famous, his life-long passion. After this stint, with a great sense of accomplishment Hans will retire from the mosquito-killing profession and take up a hobby: applying to medical school. He hopes to attend the U of M in September 2004. If this fails, Hans just might travel back to España or Latin America and teach English. Adios Amigos, it's been real!

Kirsten Haaland:

Next year I will be living in St. Paul with fellow Oles. I am currently in the process of applying for teaching positions, so hopefully I will soon have a job teaching middle school math. I am also hoping to put my softball skills to use, whether it be playing for a team in the cities or coaching at some level.

Kyle Haemig:

After spending my summer working in a dental laboratory, I plan on attending graduate school for economics sometime in the future. In the meantime, I will continue my mathematics education as a special undergraduate student at a university to be named later, and if next year the trembling hand of fate opens to reveal love of partial differential equations and topology, I may get a mathematical finance degree. Either way, I'm still stuck in the Matrix.

Justin Hayes:

After taking a year off working wherever I can find a job I will hopefully become enrolled in a medical physics program by 2004. Maybe I'll open an alcohol dispensing business in my home town, or maybe I'll just watch people work, and it will make me feel good knowing that at least someone is getting something done. I suppose it is possible I may just disappear into my basement and become a crazed wanna be physicist who will cause city wide blackouts for want of power.

Mark Heinert:

As of right now, I don't know exactly what I will be doing come May 26th. My current plans are to gain business experience for about 3-5 years and then go to school for my MBA. I have been interviewing for what seems like forever for different business related positions (actuary, consulting, finance, etc.) and hope that one of these companies would like to hire a math/econ/stats guy. I imagine something will come my way in the next month or so, but if you know of anyone who'd like to hire a great math graduate, let me know!!!

Robert Hillard:

Next year I will be going back home to the University of Missouri Medical School. During the summer I will be recovering from finals.

Erik Johnson:

In August I will be moving to Madison, WI to work for Epic Systems, a software company, as a pricing analyst. However, prior to August I will be working diligently on the longest math course that I have ever taken, Math Practicum. I might even finish it before 2037. After working for a few years and hopefully making money, I'm planning on going to graduate school in either statistics or economics.

Matt Karnas:

I'm going to be making pizzas at Broadway Pizza in Eagan, so feel free to stop in!

Neil Knudson: No information submitted.

John Kuipers:

Jonathan will be taking a year siesta while working full-time as a statistician at the Mayo Clinic. He intends to spend significant time tutoring high school math students while simultaneously paying off school loans. Meanwhile, Jonathan will contemplate the pros and cons of medical versus dental school. He plans to visit South America, Montana and the Canadian wilderness in this quest while volunteering at a missionary hospital (South America) and assisting in wildlife management (Montana and Canada).

Matthew Kusek: No information submitted.

Matthew Lafferty: No information submitted.

Stephanie Libera:

Stephanie will be moving up to the twin cities to begin a career as a business analyst at Target Corporation. Umm.... am I supposed to write anything else? I remember the senior salutes being long but I don't know what else they said. Hmm....

Jodi Manke:

After four hard years of work as a math major, I've decided not to use anything I've learned in either my summer job or my plans for next fall. This summer I am headed back to the great city of Roseville where I will be hanging out with my parents and earning my keep through waitressing. Next fall I will be attending dental school at the University of Minnesota. I would like to thank my roommate Krista Mae Leskinen, founding member of my fan club, to whom I owe all my accomplishments.

Heather Mattson:

Heather Mattson will be returning home for a summer of working—hopefully doing clinical studies, volunteering for FCA camps, shopping for grad schools, shopping for apartments and scrapbooking her college memories. She intends to get a Master's in Public Health in either biostatistics and/or health care administration and hopes to take part in reforming the U.S. health care system someday.

Erin May:

My post graduation plans include a very exciting summer of working for the chemistry department at Olaf. I then plan to jet away to the far recesses of Ames, IA on the first of August to join the physical chemistry department at Iowa State, where I will remain for an average of 5.5 years.

Dan Meyers:

Next year I'll be enrolled in the one-year Math Education program at the U of M to try my hand at teaching.

Jerad Parish:

After having taken more math/cs/stats than should be allowed to preserve one's sanity, I will be taking some time off and eventually attempting to find a job as a programmer or an actuary, either in the cities or somewhere else across the country.

Rachel Pedersen:

My plans for next year are not set in stone by any means. I am thinking I will be in the twin cities area, hopefully working for a non-profit organization. Otherwise, if things go very very well, I will be working for Mayo Clinic as a Data Analyst in Rochester. I plan on taking my GRE this fall and then applying to Grad schools throughout the next year to eventually get my M.S. in Biostatistics. I still have a yearning for medicine, though, so plans could always change. Whatever I

end up doing someday, I hope it will be affiliated somehow with medical research.

Marcelino Pena : No information submitted.

Erin Peterson: No information submitted.

Katie Pichotta:

After finally giving up on my childhood dream of owning a K-Mart, I will begin my post-college life by spending the summer in northern India doing service work. In the fall, I will be doing something somewhere. After a few years of that, I will probably move to another country to do missions. I am sure, no matter where I am or what I'm doing, that my math and stats knowledge will come in handy in ways I never anticipated (certainly beyond using words like "confounded" in normal conversation).

Sam Rapson:

I'll be living in Minneapolis for the next year and (hopefully) working as a software engineer. I'm also planning on joining a nationally competitive ultimate frisbee club team and possibly coaching a high school team.

Mark Schmelzle:

My immediate plan is to enter the workforce in insurance, research, or consulting. I will be living, working and playing ultimate frisbee in the Twin Cities. After a couple years, I will most likely do graduate work in a statistics field yet to be determined. Eventually I would like to dabble in education and coaching as well.

Mara Sedlins:

Next year I'll be a graduate student at the University of Washington in Seattle, pursuing a Ph.D. in social psychology.

Justin Seningen:

It's been a great four years with all of you. I will miss the great times we've had in the Old Music Hall, in Budapest, at Math Recitals, and/or at the annual Pig Roast. Although I'm pursuing a career outside of the mathematical realm, mathematics has always been my passion. As long as my TI-89 is near, I shall never stray from the mathematical ties that bind! I hope to make it back to Budapest some day, and perhaps to re-carve my initials in the Pecs TV tower. Congratulations and good luck to all my peers! I hope to see you all again, hopefully at time $t = n$ (where n is some small number). Take care!

Peter Sprangers:

I'll be taking a year of relaxation before venturing off to a PhD program in Statistics. I will be attending either the U of M or Ohio State University. I'd also like to take this opportunity to mention that Jeremy Strief is one incredibly sexy man.

Lisa Spurlock:

Well, I will be attending Washington University in St. Louis this fall to earn my Masters of Architecture (MArch) degree. I will be there for the next three and a half years, so I will be incredibly broke for quite a while. I do hope to return to Minnesota at some point and start my own architecture firm. (As for this summer, I will be staying in the Minneapolis area and working non-stop so I can fund my grad school.)

Alec Steward:

After graduating I'm planning on heading back home to Duluth, MN, where I will be resuming my

landscaping career for the summer while I attempt to clear my mind and recover from the past year. I hope in March to begin an internship with the front office of the Minnesota Twins. After completing said internship at the end of the 2004 baseball season, I plan to work my way up through the Twins organization and assume the position of General Manager by the year 2007, becoming the youngest GM ever hired by a Major League team. From that position I will assemble the Twins dynasty that will win the World Series from 2010 through 2024.

Jeremy Strief:

Do you ever wonder if waiting times at bank teller lines can be adequately modeled by an exponential distribution? Well, I don't. But during the summer I'll be working at Wells Fargo Bank to save up some money for grad school at the University of Minnesota. I'm enrolled as a master's candidate in statistics but would like to eventually obtain a PhD in biostatistics. If all else fails, perhaps the studly Pete Sprangers and I will take our statistics comedy act on the road. (Did you hear the one about the statistician in jail? She now has 0 degrees of freedom.)

Gregory Swanson: No information submitted.

Paul Thucek:

Next year, I will be attending medical school at the University of Oklahoma.

Heather Tollerud:

After an action-packed summer of doing.... well... not too much, I'm heading to Boulder, Colorado to work on an astrophysics degree. That'll probably be enough to keep me busy for awhile. I would like to thank everyone in the math department for a great four years!

Isaac Townsend:

After taking a month off, I will begin working at Target as a business analyst. I look forward to that and to living in Uptown. Outside of work hopefully there will be time for trips to my cabin and training for a marathon.

Ross Vanderwert:

My future plans after St Olaf are wide open. They require me to do some traveling and acting goofy. I will return to school both as a student and as a teacher.

Jonathan Von Stroh:

After graduation, I will be wandering aimlessly through the summer months until I find a summer job. In the fall, I will be finding a new home in the University of Denver community in the graduate mathematics program, where I hope to learn all the secrets of mathematics. And if I'm lucky, I might even have a warm, fuzzy kitty to keep me company!!!

Mike Watercott:

I will be joining the Siamese Circus or Traveling Anywhere Red Goats Eat Tofu.

Brett Werner:

After coaching two club soccer teams (U19 boys and U18 girls) for the summer, I'll be returning to Minnesota, this time to the University of Minnesota and a Master's program in rhetoric and scientific communication (environmental rhetoric). During that time, I'll also be playing music with my band and hanging with cool people. Upon finishing my MA in {1.5, 2} years, I'll likely pursue more graduate school, perhaps in ecology, environmental humanities, or religion (and likely integrating all of them, as is my nature).

Laura White:

My post graduation plans are to first student teach math in India at Kokaikanal International School next fall. Then, I will be traveling in Ecuador for a few weeks. After having had plenty of time away from Northfield (my hometown), I will hopefully find a fulltime job teaching math somewhere that I can take evening nursing classes at the same time. Ultimately, my goal is to end up a part-time high school or middle school math teacher and a part-time pediatric oncological nurse.

Nick Wold:

Next fall I will be student teaching at Central High School in St. Paul. After that, I don't know what I'll be doing.

Anisa Xhafka: No information submitted.

Emily Zdenek:

Upon completion of my math and biology majors and graduation, I plan on getting a job in modeling...math, that is. I've gained a lot of experience here at St. Olaf as I have spent my weekends shooting with number 1. If all goes well, I should land a spot in the Fibonacci sequence. I am currently being sought after by big time corporations begging me to choose their company for my future employment. Actually, I'll be lucky if I land a job at Chuckie Cheeze. If anyone is reading this (anyone at all) who has a job opening, call me at (507)-646-6427.