

# MSCS Mess

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Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science  
St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057

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## This Week's Colloquium

<b>Title:</b>	Wood You Believe It's Math?
<b>Speaker:</b>	Barry Cipra, Northfield, MN
<b>Date:</b>	Monday, February 24
<b>Time:</b>	3:30
<b>Location:</b>	RNS 410

**About the talk:** This talk is a follow-up to last fall's colloquium on the ABC puzzles by Loren Larson. Barry will be looking at the mathematics behind some of the wooden puzzles and games that Loren has created. In particular, he will take a look at "The Bricklayers Challenge", which leads up to an unsolved problem waiting for a bright undergraduate like you to tackle. If you like puzzles or games or are interested in tackling an unsolved problem, this is the colloquium for you!

**About the colloquium:** Barry Cipra is a freelance mathematics writer based in Northfield, Minnesota. He has been a contributing correspondent for Science magazine and a regular writer for SIAM News, the monthly newsletter of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics. He wrote the first five volumes of *Whats Happening in the Mathematical Sciences* (American Mathematical Society, 1993-2002), and is the author of *Mistakes... and How to Find Them Before the Teacher Does: A Calculus Supplement* (A.K. Peters, Ltd., 2000). He received a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Maryland, College Park.

## This Week's Seminar

There is not an MSCS seminar this week.

## Cardinal Scholars hiring

Cardinal Scholars is an in-home and online tutoring company that matches exceptional tutors affiliated

with top universities with elementary, middle, and high school students in need of additional academic support. We now offer our services to the Northfield and greater Minneapolis-St. Paul area and seek tutoring candidates who meet the following hiring criteria:

- Are fantastic teachers and have experience teaching others
- Are academically curious and intelligent
- Love working with kids and are comfortable working in a home environment
- Are responsible, creative and motivated
- Attend or have graduated from St. Olaf

There are many benefits to joining the Cardinal Scholars platform. These include:

- Freedom to work within your own schedule (we expect you to be taking classes yourself!)
- Tutor between 2-10 hours per week
- Competitive compensation starting at \$20/hr
- Get to know great families from the community who will really appreciate your help!

## Looking for a small job?

Prof. Dietz wants to hire a student to spend just a few hours a week dealing with some data related to the summer "placement" system. Prof's Dietz and Smith are hoping to refine the system by which first year students are placed into their first math course. Ability to work independently and some familiarity with Excel are the only job qualifications. Email Prof. Dietz ([dietz@stolaf.edu](mailto:dietz@stolaf.edu)) if you're interested **and** have a work-study award.

## MSCS Summer CURI Opportunities!

Have you wanted to get a taste of research in MSCS, but do not know where to look? Then look no further! This summer, MSCS has many opportunities for students to get involved in research. The projects range from parallel computing to mathematics and music to health effects of particulate matter. There are many more that can be found on the CURI website (<http://bit.ly/1jTyvnr>). Applications are due Friday, February 28th.

### New MSCS Editor Needed!

Since the current editor is graduating this year, the MSCS department is looking for a new, motivated person to become the editor starting Fall 2014. The new editor needs to be comfortable using LaTeX, and will be able to work with the current editor to gain a stronger understanding of the LaTeX required. If you have any questions or would like to become the new editor, please e-mail Josh Jacobson ([jacobsoj@stolaf.edu](mailto:jacobsoj@stolaf.edu)).

Editor-in-Chief:	Josh Jacobson
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Mess Czar:	Patty Martinez

*If you would like to submit an article or event to be published in the Math Mess, e-mail [jacobsoj@stolaf.edu](mailto:jacobsoj@stolaf.edu)*