

# MSCS Mess

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St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057

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## This Week's Colloquium

There will not be a colloquium this week.

## This Week's Seminar

<b>Title:</b>	$\Gamma$ -species and the enumeration of bipartite blocks
<b>Speaker:</b>	Andrew Gainer-Dewar, Carleton
<b>Date:</b>	Friday, March 14
<b>Time:</b>	3:35 PM
<b>Location:</b>	RNS 204

**About the Seminar:** Counting unlabeled graphs is often surprisingly difficult, even with powerful generatingfunctionological tools. We'll present the theory of combinatorial species (and an extension dubbed ' $\Gamma$ -species'), a category-theoretic framework for enumerative combinatorics which helps to resolve this difficulty. In particular, we'll illustrate how these theories can be used to count unlabeled bipartite blocks, a previously open problem. Despite occasional use of the word 'functor', this talk will be accessible to a general mathematical audience, including undergraduates. (This talk represents joint work with Ira M. Gessel at Brandeis University.)

## Data Analytics Competition

The third annual Midwest Undergraduate Data Analytics Competition (MUDAC) will be held on Saturday, April 5 and Sunday, April 6, 2014 at Winona State University.

This competition will give students an opportunity to apply their data analysis skills to a problem of interest to a local organization. Students working in teams will have 24 hours to carry out an analysis, provide a written summary of their findings, and prepare a brief oral presentation of their results. The members of the winning team receive a cash award!

Interested students should email Professor Laura Boehm Vock ([boehm@stolaf.edu](mailto:boehm@stolaf.edu)) to find teammates and learn more details. Students who have statistics and/or computing experience are encouraged to participate.

More info about the competition is available at [www.MUDAC.org](http://www.MUDAC.org).

## TigerRisk Partners is Hiring!

TigerRisk Partners (a reinsurance intermediary) is planning on hiring one to two college graduates to join their analytics team this spring. Some of the primary responsibilities include managing and preparing property insurance data, communicating analytical ideas to multiple audiences, and performing portfolio profitability analysis. Applicants should have a knowledge in statistical and probabilistic risk modeling (or be willing to learn). They should also be an effective communicator and proficient in programming and able to handle multiple tasks and projects simultaneously. Knowledge of SQL is a plus. If you have any questions or want to apply, please contact Kate Friday ([katrinafriday@gmail.com](mailto:katrinafriday@gmail.com)).

## Pi Day!

Next Friday (March 14) is Pi Day! Pi Mu Epsilon will be celebrating this year by providing pies on the 3rd floor of the math building. Stop by at some point in the day for your free slice of pie. Don't come too late though as there will not be  $\infty \pi$ s.

## Course Descriptions Coming Soon

Registration is already coming soon! Next week, the Mess will be publishing course descriptions for some of the upcoming MSCS courses. You won't want to miss it!

## MSCS T-shirt contest

The math club (now known as the math honor society Pi Mu Epsilon) is in the process of designing t-shirts. They are in need of designs for the t-shirt. Whoever creates the winning design will receive a free t-shirt. If you have an idea, please submit it to Josh Jacobson ([jacobsoj](mailto:jacobsoj)) by Monday, March 17.

### Mathematician/Celebrity Look Alike Pair

This week's mathematician/celebrity look alike pair is Vladimir Putin and Augustus-Louis Cauchy. Seriously. Do a side-by-side comparison on the first Google image that pops up for both, and you will believe me. Vladimir Putin is the current president of Russia. Cauchy is famous for his contributions to analysis (among many other fields).

Do you know of any famous people who look like famous mathematicians? If so, please e-mail Josh Jacobson ([jacobsoj@stolaf.edu](mailto:jacobsoj@stolaf.edu)) with your pairings.

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*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)*