

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

Title:	Halving Your Cake
Speaker:	Deanna Haunsperger and Steve Kennedy
Date:	Monday, September 23
Time:	4:00 PM
Location:	RNS 410

Note that the talk is 30 minutes later than usual.

About the talk: It is a problem as old as humanity: given a resource to be shared (water, land, cake) how can it be shared fairly between several people? The answer, in the case of two claimants, is simple and ancient and known to every five-year-old with a sibling: I cut, You choose. Things get much more interesting, and challenging, if one has more than one sibling. We are forced to ask ourselves exactly what "fairly means in the question; "fair from whose point of view and by what criteria?

About the Speakers: Stephen Kennedy and Deanna Haunsperger received their PhDs from Northwestern University (intersecting Jill Dietz) and began their careers together in a small midwestern college department where all the students are above average. After three years of Departmental pig roasts (the precursor to the Tailgating parties) and Donna Brakke's bars (the precursor to Donna's almond bread), the somewhat-heavier duo moved all the way across town to teach at Carleton, encountering students like Adam Berliner in their classes. Nearly twenty years and [precisely] two children later, the two are active in the Mathematical Association of America, and are finishing back-to-back stints as Chair in the Department of Mathematics at Carleton. They are delighted to return to St. Olaf.

This Week's Seminar

There will be no MSCS Seminar this week.

Tailgating Extravaganza!!

This year's annual Tailgating Extravaganza will be on Tuesday, October 1. What is this extravaganza, you ask? It's a multimedia, multi-event, feast of information, entertainment, education, and actual food. You can come for all of it, or part of it. We'll have information tables outside Regents 150 beginning at 3:30pm, an entertaining and educational colloquium in RNS 150 4:30-5:30pm, and a cookout 5:30pm-??.

If you plan to eat dinner with us (brats, dogs, beans, slaw, chips, brownies, etc.), please sign up at bit.ly/16iQszK

Major Pictures!

Peder Bolstad is going to be taking pictures of any faculty and also of students with majors/concentrations in MSCS on **Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons Oct 2nd & 3 from 2:00 to 4:00pm.**

To have your picture taken go to the Academic Support Center (ASC) in Buntrock (near the post office and print center) to be directed to the photo-taking location nearby (which will depend on weather).

The pictures will be posted on the bulletin board in RMS on the 2nd floor.

Why Spend a Semester in Budapest? Math of course!

Budapest Semesters in Mathematics (BSM) offers students the opportunity to spend the fall, spring or summer semester studying mathematics with eminent Hungarian scholars while living in the fascinating European city of Budapest. Hungary is known

for combining distinction in research with dedication to teaching and nurturing mathematical talent, and the BSM classes encourage creativity, stress problem solving, and support group learning.

For students interested in pursuing a graduate degree in mathematics, this program is especially appropriate. Talented math students from colleges and universities across the country participate in BSM, and many state that their BSM experience was the most valuable preparation for their graduate studies in the field of mathematics.

For more information about the program, including a photo gallery of Budapest, visit the BSM website at: <http://www.budapestsemesters.com/> or contact BSM faculty representative Bruce Hanson (RMS 408) x3580, hansonb@stolaf.edu, or BSM administrator, Eileen Shimota (RNS 324) x3114, shimota@stolaf.edu.

MSCS Jokes!

Since this column was so popular last year, it is returning! Get ready for some hilarious jokes:

Statistics may be dull, but it has it's moments.

Q: How many programmers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: None. This is a hardware problem.

Q: What is the volume of a thick crust pizza with height " a " and radius z ?

A: $\pi i \cdot i \cdot z \cdot z \cdot a$

If you don't find these jokes funny and think you can do better, please e-mail the editor your jokes.

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