MSCS Mess

This Week's Seminar

Title:	Gromov Hyperbolic Spaces: What are they and why should we care?
Speaker:	Bruce Hanson
Date:	Friday, October 3
Time:	3:30 pm
Location:	RNS 204

About the talk: What is a Gromov Hyperbolic Space, you ask? Roughly speaking it's a metric space with negative curvature, whatever that means. Generally you need a space with a lot of structure to define curvature, but Gromov found a way to do this in a much more general setting. I will explain what this means starting with the definition of a metric space and a rough introduction to curvature. It should be fascinating!

Bruce Hanson grew up in Duluth, attended St. Olaf College and got his PhD from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1982, the same year that he began teaching at St. Olaf. His research interests include quasiconformal mappings and analysis on metric spaces. Bruce has four sons: Shane, Anders, Mats and Leif and in his spare time he loves to sing, play guitar, ride his road bike and watch his sons compete in various sporting events.

Tailgate on Tuesday!

Remember to stop by RNS 150 at 4:30pm on Tuesday for the kickoff of this year's MSCS Tailgating Party. The event begins with three short talks on how quantitative analysis can enhance one's understanding and appreciation of that great American pastime, baseball. At 5:30pm the event moves to the patio between RNS and the Math building for food and information about the plethora of opportunities, both on and off campus, available to MSCS majors and concentrators. There is something for MSCS students of all ages and interests. Hoping to see you there.

Upcoming Research Symposiums

Physical Sciences, Mathematics & Computer Science Symposium

Have you done research this past summer, either on campus or off? St. Olaf participates annually in the Midstates Consortium for Mathematics and Science. This symposium gives undergraduate students who have done research the opportunity to prepare an oral or poster presentation of their projects and results at one of the two Undergraduate Research Symposia that take place this fall. The Symposia will be on October 31 and November 1, 2014 at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. The deadline to apply is September 29.

If you have done on-campus research, you should contact your supervising professor with your interest in participating.

If you have done off-campus research, contact Jill Fisher with your interest in participating.

There is a limit of eight students per symposium. All transportation, food and lodging will be covered.

Student Research Symposium in LaCrosse

Are you interested in either presenting your own research or listening to others and getting a feel for what research is about? Ask Prof. Dietz (dietz@stolaf.edu) about the possibility of going to Viterbo University's 12th Annual Seven Rivers Undergraduate Research Symposium on Friday, November 14, 2014 in La Crosse, WI. The symposium is open to all disciplines, but the MSCS department will

only support MSCS majors and concentrators. The registration deadline is October 31, so please talk to Prof. Dietz before then.

Don't Forget to Take Your MSCS Picture!

This is a reminder that Peder Bolstad is going to be taking pictures of any faculty and students with majors/concentrations in MSCS on Wednesday, Oct 1 from 2:00 - 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.

Problem Solving!

The Math Problem-Solving Group meets Monday nights, 6-7 PM in RNS 206, to work on a variety of problems and to discuss problem-solving strategies. The primary focus is to have some fun thinking about interesting problems; students can also use the meetings to prepare for several national and regional mathematics contests. All interested students are welcome, regardless of courses taken.

and for Your Reading Pleasure...

a Math Joke

A mathematician and an engineer end up stranded on a desert island. They find two palm trees with one coconut each. The engineer climbs up one tree, gets the coconut, and eats it. The mathematician climbs up the other tree, gets the coconut, climbs the first tree and puts it there. Then he turns, smiling contentedly, to the engineer and says: "Now we've reduced it to a problem we know how to solve."

and a Riddle

What is greater than God,
more evil than the devil,
the poor have it,
the rich need it,
and if you eat it, you'll die?

(answer to be revealed in next week's Mess)

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