

MSCS Mess

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Interim Opportunity in Education

Here's an Interim course that you might consider. In **EDUC 170: Urban Schools and Communities**, you'll spend time in the Twin Cities being part of a middle or high school mathematics classroom. You'll participate as tutors and classroom assistants during the school day and then assist in various after-school and community programs. This course is appropriate for anyone with a curiosity or interest in teaching, especially in the urban setting. (Many former students have told me that this is the class where they really fell in love with teaching.)

The course is open to first-years and sophomores only, with no prerequisite. It satisfies the MCD requirement. For those pursuing a teaching license, it counts towards your Interim field-experience requirement. **There is a pre-registration process, so if you're interested in taking the course, please contact Prof. Matsuura (matsuura@stolaf.edu) as soon as possible.**

Essay Contest

To increase awareness of women's ongoing contributions to the mathematical sciences, the Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) and Math for America are co-sponsoring an essay contest for biographies of contemporary women mathematicians and statisticians in academic, industrial, and government careers. The essays will be based primarily on an interview with a woman currently working in a mathematical sciences career. This contest is open to students in the following categories: Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12, and College Undergraduate. At least one winning submission will be chosen from each category. Winners will receive a prize, and their essays

will be published online at the AWM web site. Additionally, a grand prize winner will have his or her submission published in the AWM Newsletter.

The request deadline for those who would like to be matched with a woman to interview is January 10, 2015. The deadline for the essay itself is January 31, 2015. Anyone interested should send their requests to Dr. Jennifer Ellis at jenn.c.ellis@gmail.com

and for Your Reading Pleasure...

a Math Joke

A mathematician organizes a lottery in which the prize is an infinite amount of money. When the winning ticket is drawn, and the jubilant winner comes to claim his prize, the mathematician explains the mode of payment: "1 dollar now, 1/2 dollar next week, 1/3 dollar the week after that..."

and a Riddle

What word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?

(Last week's answer: Your Word)

(This week's answer to be found in the next 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