

MSCS Mess

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No Colloquium or Seminar next week, Happy Thanksgiving!



Reminder: Women in Mathematics 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 CS Joke

A mechanical engineer, a physicist, and a computer programmer are in a car driving down a steep

mountain when the brakes fail. They careen around the bends until they finally reach the bottom and the car rolls to a stop.

The engineer hops out of the car and begins inspecting the brakes for the source of the failure. The physicist grabs a pad of paper and starts calculating the maximum angular momentum and friction coefficients.

The computer programmer looks at the car, then at the mountain and says, "let's push it up to the top and see if it happens again."

a Problem to ponder over break

Given the numbers 2, 3, 4, 5 and the symbols + and =, it is possible to use each number and symbol once and only once to make a true equation. How?

*You cannot use any number or symbol not given.

a Quote and Warning for Thanksgiving

"Statistics show that of those who contract the habit of eating, very few survive"

-George Bernard Shaw

and a Riddle

It's not a bird, though feathered,
and it has a mobile nest.

It's quick in flight and, having flown,
it always stops to rest.

What is it?

(The answer can be found in the next Mess!)

(Last week's answer: bell)

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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