

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:	CAMP: Computing and Mathematics Program
Speaker:	Olaf Hall-Holt, Eileen King '13, Stephen Akers '17
Date:	Monday, December 1
Time:	3:30 - 4:30 pm
Location:	RNS 310

About the talk: What do the Google search algorithm, Lego robots, and real-life role models have in common? All have been part of a middle school camp here in Northfield that provides younger students with exposure to topics in mathematics and computing. In this colloquium, everyone will get a chance to learn about the PageRank algorithm (which involves simple probability and graphs), consider paths that can lead to MSCS majors, and interact hands-on with robots! Accessible to all students.

Prepare to Bring the SPONGE to Life!

At the usual Colloquium time, 3:30, on December 8 we will meet in RMS 600 to bring a Level 2 Menger Sponge to the St. Olaf campus. St. Olaf will play its part in a world wide MegaMenger Project and we NEED YOUR HELP to bring the SPONGE to life here on campus. The MSCS department has purchased the building materials for this and has invested in trainers for each of the dozen tables that will be set up in RMS 600. Upon arriving (with some friends and relatives), grab some food, and then a table where the building materials will be stockpiled. The SPONGE trainers will be there to get you going. We'll be a loud and raucous group, but at the end of the day we hope to have brought a Level 2 to

life here at St. Olaf. If you're curious, check out the MegaMenger Project on the web and then come and be part of it!

Epidemiology Graduate School Information Session

Are you interested in learning more about the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health? On Monday, representatives from the Division of Epidemiology & Community Health will be on campus. Faculty and students in the program examine the distribution, cause and prevention of diseases, and how human behavior affects overall health. MPH, MS, PhD, and MD/PhD degrees are all offered, and students can tailor their studies along a clinical/biological or social/behavioral track. In addition to coursework, master's and doctoral students in the program have numerous opportunities for applied research.

If you're interested, stop by RNS 356 at 5 pm on Monday, December 1st. There will be cookies and information about how you can earn a valuable degree and gain the tools to engage in meaningful work in the area of public health.

Mathematics Education in Budapest!

Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Education (BSME) is a semester-long program in Budapest, Hungary, designed for those interested in teaching middle or high school mathematics. BSME was conceived by the founders of Budapest Semesters in Mathematics (BSM), and the two programs share a common goal: to provide their participants with an opportunity to experience the mathematical and

general culture of Hungary. BSME is specifically intended for students who are not only passionate about mathematics, but also the teaching of mathematics. Come enjoy a shared experience with other passionate future teachers, forming a rich support network and professional community that will extend beyond your time in Budapest.

You do not need to be enrolled in a teaching program (like our Math Education Program) to apply to BSME. Moreover, BSME welcomes those who are within one or two semesters after graduation by the time they enter the program—thus, it could be a valuable gap year experience. For more details, see bsmeducation.com or contact Ryota Matsuura (matsuura@stolaf.edu).

Job Opportunity with Concord IT

Concord is an IT company in Hopkins, MN and they're looking to recruit MSCS majors as consultants to help build next-generation integrated business systems for some of the world's leading enterprises. Concord employees learn how leading companies do business, how they analyze and optimize their business processes, and how they use IT to achieve strategic and operational advantages. Applicants need to be effective communicators, decision makers, and problem solvers in addition to being highly organized and able to meet multiple deadlines. Anyone interested should send their resume to Katie Nelson (katie.nelson@concordusa.com) and upload it to concordusa.com/careers.

and for Your Reading Pleasure...

a Math Joke

Why did the obtuse angle go to the pool?
Because it was over 90 degrees!

and a Riddle

I'm the part of the bird that's not in the sky.
I can swim in the ocean and yet remain dry.
What am I?

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

(Last week's answer: arrow)

(Answer to last week's Problem: $3^2 = 4 + 5$)

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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