

MSCS Mess

Access the MSCS Mess online at <http://wp.stolaf.edu/mscs/mscs-mess/>. E-mail the editor (greimann@stolaf.edu) if you wish to receive a digital copy every Friday.

Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science
St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057

9 January 2015
Vol. 43, No. 14

Summer Research Opportunity

Are you interested in applying your math skills to scientific research? If so, then the MTBI Summer Research Program might be right for you! The program is an intensive eight-week summer research experience for undergraduates in Tempe, Arizona, intended to prepare promising young scientists and mathematicians for the rigors of graduate studies. The program is a research experience for undergraduates (REU); it is not an internship, nor will students earn college credit for participation.

Participants receive intensive instruction in a variety of fields from top scientists and special guest lecturers. Students will also work in self-selected groups on research problems of their own choosing in collaboration with experienced faculty and graduate student mentors. By the end of the program, students complete a technical report and give a poster and oral presentation to peers and scientists.

Any undergraduate who has completed their sophomore year and is majoring in Math, Biology, or a related field may apply. The deadline for applications is January 31, 2015. For more information visit mtbi.asu.edu/SummerProgram.

Number Theory in Budapest Blog

Curious about adventures with paprika and goulash? Wondering what it's like to navigate the metro to class every day? Intrigued to hear about twenty-one students struggling with Hungarian? Jealous of weather that is consistently above 15 degrees? Wish you were here in Budapest with us? Check out the St. Olaf Number Theory 2015 class blog for daily updates! Just go to <http://stolafbudapest2015.blogspot.com/>.

Wanna Work for the MSCS department?

The MSCS department is now accepting work study applications for Semester II. If any students are interested in grading or working as a teachers assistant, they need to apply. Applications are available in RMS 307, from Patty Martinez, or if you are not on campus, you may email martinep@stolaf.edu to have one sent to you.

and for Your Reading Pleasure...

a Math Joke

A mathematician, a physicist, and an engineer were traveling through Scotland when they saw a black sheep through the window of the train.

"Aha," says the engineer, "I see that Scottish sheep are black."

"Hmm," says the physicist, "You mean that some Scottish sheep are black."

"No, no," says the mathematician, "All we know is that there is at least one sheep in Scotland, and that at least one side of that one sheep is black!"

and a Riddle

Take me out and scratch my head,
I am now black but once was red.
What am I?

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

(Last week's answers: candle, and key)

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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