

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

6 February 2015
Vol. 43, No. 17

History of Mathematics Paper Contest

The History of Mathematics Special Interest Group of the Mathematical Association of America is pleased to announce its annual Student Paper Contest in the History of Mathematics. The contest is open to all undergraduate students, and papers will be judged by a panel of specialists for content, originality, and presentation. Winners will receive a one-year student membership in the MAA, which includes an electronic subscription to all five of the MAA's journals, and membership in the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics. Papers can focus on a single person or topic, or be an historical survey of a topic or school of thought, but all submissions should be approximately 5000 words in length. Only papers by a single author are accepted. For a fuller list of the guidelines, please contact Zach Greimann (greimann@stolaf.edu). Submissions and further questions can be directed to Dr. Dominic Klyve (klyved@cwu.edu). Submissions must be received by March 20, 2015, so dust off those papers or start some new ones!

Willamette Mathematics Consortium REU

The Willamette Mathematics Consortium REU is an intensive eight-week summer research program which immerses undergraduate students in a challenging, transformative, authentic research experience. Three teams, each consisting of three undergraduates and one faculty mentor, will solve research problems in Algebraic Voting Theory, Algorithms over Polynomial Rings, or Unipancyclic Matroids. The program runs June 1-July 24, and program activities include the creation of new mathematics, career development workshops and training, organized

social outings, and presentations at regional and national conferences.

Applications are accepted through March 1, and the program especially encourages students from under-represented groups and students from schools with limited research opportunities to apply. Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of the US or its territories and full-time undergraduate students in 2015-2016. Each participant will receive a \$4000 stipend, travel support, and shared on-campus housing. Applications can be submitted at www.mathprograms.org/db/programs/359 and more information can be found at www.willamette.edu/cla/math/reu/.

Actuarial Position Available with Guy Carpenter

Guy Carpenter, located in Minneapolis, is one of the world's premier reinsurance intermediaries and strategic advisors to leading insurance and reinsurance organizations. They are currently looking to fill an Analyst position on their team with a 2015 college graduate. The main responsibility of the Analyst would be to assist senior members of the team in delivering consulting services to colleagues and clients.

More information about Guy Carpenter can be found on their parent company's website: www.mmc.com/. Anyone interested in applying for the position should contact Professor Dietz (dietz@stolaf.edu).

Working for the MSCS Department

Looking for a campus job? The MSCS department has positions available as graders, teaching assistants, math clinic workers and more. See Patty Martinez in RMS 307 for an application.

Math 236: Mathematics of Biology

There is still time to register for Math 236 this spring! This team-taught course provides the opportunity for students to undertake experimentation, data collection, mathematical modeling, and statistical computation, all essential to developing models of biological processes. In the lab, students partner with a classmate with a background different from their own. One member of each pair serves as a domain (math or biology) expert. Throughout the semester, students study population growth, enzyme kinetics, random walks and glucose homeostasis in the laboratory and use mathematical models to help them understand the underlying mechanisms of the observed dynamics. No prior laboratory experience is required. Prerequisites: Math 126 or 128, and Math 220. If you have questions, please contact Becky Vandiver (vandiver@stolaf.edu).

Coming Up...

Amanda Cox will be giving the first Colloquium of the semester about her work on graphic representations of data on February 16. Cox, who earned her M.S. in statistics from the University of Washington in 2005. She then moved to the New York Times, where she is a graphics editor. She and the graphics team at the New York Times are responsible for many of the cool, informative, and interactive graphics produced by the Times. In her talk, entitled "Visualizing Breaking News at the New York Times," she will be addressing how the NYTimes approaches the visual aspects of the graphics concerning today's national and international news.

and for Your Reading Pleasure...

Some Math Jokes

Q: Why couldn't the moebius strip enroll at the school?

A: They required an orientation.

Q: What do you call a number that can't settle down?

A: A roamin' numeral.

Q: Why didnt' the Romans find algebra very challenging?

A: Because X was always 10!

(The answer to last edition's riddle: Advice)

Editor-in-Chief:	Zach Greimann
Faculty:	Joe Benson
Mess Czar:	Patty Martinez

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