MSCS Mess

This Week's Colloquium

Speaker:	Amanda Cox
Date:	Monday, February 16
Time:	3:30 - 4:30 pm
Location:	RNS 310

About the talk: Amanda Cox will be visiting St. Olaf to talk about how she uses her MSCS background to produce graphic representations of data for the public. Cox, '01, earned her M.S. in statistics from the University of Washington in 2005. She then moved to the New York Times, where she is currently 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 Colloquium talk, Amanda will be focusing on the technical aspects of her work, so come and see how R makes it way to the NYT!

2015 Kleber-Gery Lecture

Amanda Cox will also be speaking as this year's Kleber-Gery lecturer. Her talk, entitled "Visualizing Breaking News at the New York Times" will address how the NYTimes approaches the visual aspects of the graphics concerning today's national and international news. The talk will take place on Monday evening in TOH 280 at 7:30 pm, with snacks and conversation starting at 7:00 pm.

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.

You do *not* need to be enrolled in a teaching program (like our Math Education Program) to apply to BSME. 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. For more details, see bsmeducation.com or contact Ryota Matsuura (matsuura@stolaf.edu). **Act now, since the application deadline for semester/year off-campus study in 2015-16 is Monday, February 23rd.**

Konhauser ProblemFest Mathematics Competition

The annual competition for the Pizza Trophy, pitting teams from St. Olaf against teams from Carleton, Macalester, and St. Thomas, will be held at St. Olaf on Sat. Feb. 28 from 9 AM until Noon, with lunch provided afterwards. This is a really fun contest and can be done in teams of up to three. If you are interested in participating, whether or not you have a team in mind, please contact Prof. Berliner or Prof. Diveris no later than Monday Feb. 16. It's time to take the trophy back from Carleton!

Women in MSCS Alumnae Panel

On Tuesday, February 24, come meet St. Olaf graduates who majored in mathematics, statistics, or computer science. These women are coming back to campus to share their experiences and advice about

their careers. Find out about the many ways they are using their MSCS skills in their current work. Get advice about classes, internships, and everything else! The panel discussion will take place 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm in the 6th floor lounge of the RMS building. Dessert will be offered!

Actuarial Analyst Position with Van Iwaarden Associates

Van Iwaarden Associates, established in 1991, is growing fast and they need bright, positive, energetic actuarial analysts with experience from entry level to several exams. Their main practice areas are pensions, retiree medical, and retirement plan design. They have clients from coast to coast, and offices in Minneapolis and San Francisco. The position they are looking to fill is for the main office in Minneapolis.

Applicants should be able to:

· Apply your math problem-solving skills to real-world business challenges,

· Clearly and concisely communicate complex topics,

· Work efficiently, and

· Have fun while you're at it.

If you'd like more information, you can research the firm at `www.vaniwaarden.com`. If you're interested in joining Van Iwaarden Associates, email your resume and cover letter to Mark Schulte at `marks@vaniwaarden.com` and tell him why you're the one!

Graduate Programs at Montana State University

MSU still has some Graduate Teaching Assistant positions available in their Fall 2015 class of Master's and PhD level graduate students, and they want you!

The Department of Mathematical Sciences at Montana State University offers graduate degree programs in Mathematics, Statistics and Mathematics Education. The Mathematics group at MSU conducts research in both pure and applied mathematics with emphases in dynamical systems theory, mathematical biology and applied and computational mathematics. Joint research also involves engineering and the biological sciences. They have recently hired new faculty with research programs in the areas of algebraic topology, homotopy theory of manifolds, analysis and geometry of non-smooth spaces and mappings, pattern formation, spatial dynamics and social modeling.

There are several merit-based financial awards available to graduate students in addition to the regular GTA stipend. For a full list of details, requirements, and deadlines, visit `http://www.math.montana.edu/grad/index_future.html`.

and for Your Reading Pleasure...

a Pair of Math Jokes

Infinitely many mathematicians walk into a bar. The first says, "I'll have a beer."

The second says, "I'll have half a beer."

The third says, "I'll have a quarter of a beer."

And so on, with each mathematician ordering half as much beer as the one before. The barman, very calmly, pulls out just two beers.

The mathematicians all protest, "That's all you're giving us? How drunk do you expect us to get on that?"

To which the bartender replies, "Come on guys. Know your limits."

⋈ ⋈ ⋈

An infinite number of mathematicians walk into a bar. The first one says "I'll have a beer."

The second says, "I'll have half a beer."

The third says "I'll have a third of a beer," and the bartender bellows:

"Get the heck out of here, are you trying to ruin me?"

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