

MSCS Mess

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

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<http://wp.stolaf.edu/mscs/mscs-mess/>

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MSCS Colloquium

Title: 'Am I a Data Scientist?': The Applied Statistics Student's Identity Crisis

Speaker: Alyssa Frazee

Date: Monday, November 2

Time: 3:30 pm- 4:30 pm

Location: RNS 310

About the talk: Data science is an exciting field! Most descriptions of the job hint at an appealing blend of statistics, math, programming, art, and business. "Data science" is also an ill-defined term: is it simply a tech-world rebranding of applied statistics? Is it data-oriented software engineering? Can you be a data scientist by training in some other field? Does the term even make sense? After all, science itself wouldn't exist without data! "The field exploded during my graduate studies in applied statistics, so in this talk, I'll discuss what that looked like from my perspective. In particular, I will talk about how spending a summer immersed in programming and software engineering affected my mostly-academic perspective and contributed to my struggle with identifying as a "data scientist,"" said Alyssa.

About the speaker: Alyssa works on the machine learning team at Stripe in San

Francisco. Before joining Stripe, she earned a PhD in biostatistics at Johns Hopkins with Jeff Leek. Her research focused on computational biology, specifically developing statistical methods and software for finding differential gene expression with RNA sequencing data. Mid-grad-school (2013), she spent a summer at the Recourse Center (formerly known as Hacker School) in New York City and loved it. Before grad school she studied math at St. Olaf College in Minnesota.

Math Grad School Night

Are you considering graduate school in pure or applied math? Are you wondering how to choose a grad program or what the application process involves? Did you know that you can get paid to be a grad student? Come to a panel discussion with three current grad students to hear about their experiences in grad school and ask your questions. Panelists include Paul Tveite, Nathan Clement, and Ryan Coopergard. The discussion will occur on Thursday, November 5, from 6:30 to 7:30 in the RMS 6th floor lounge. Pizza will be provided!

Statistics Grad School Panel

Time: Dinner(pizza) served at 6:00
Panel discussion from 6:30-7:30 PM
Where: Regents Hall 207 (the CIR room)
What: Three panelists who are currently/recently in graduate programs in statistics or biostatistics will provide insights and answer questions such as: what is graduate school like? how does one choose a program? how does St. Olaf prepare you? what can one do with an advanced stats degree? and, is it true they really pay you to go to grad school?

Panelists:
Stacey Wood '06 - PhD in Stats (2013) from NCState, Statistical Geneticist at Mayo
Alyssa Frazee '10 - PhD in Biostatistics from Johns Hopkins University
Chris Morgan, '10 - M.S. Applied Statistics, Purdue University

Note: The Statistics Grad School Night is also on Monday 2 Nov.

Summer Opportunities

It's not too early to think about next summer! Check out these links for a world of opportunity:

<http://www.maa.org/node/129080>
<https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/mathematics-statistics/summeropp>.

Be a MathPath Camp Counselor

MathPath is the national summer camp for middle-school aged students (11-14) who love math and are highly gifted at it. This opportunity for undergraduate math students will let you spend July with the brightest young minds, earn money and learn more math to boot.

When: June 26- July 24, 2016 (+2 days before and after)

Where: Macalester College, St. Paul, MN

Compensation: \$3000 plus meals, a single room on campus, and reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses. Returning counselors receive more.

Who can apply: Undergrad math students who are US residents, resident aliens, or foreign students with work permits for summer employment.

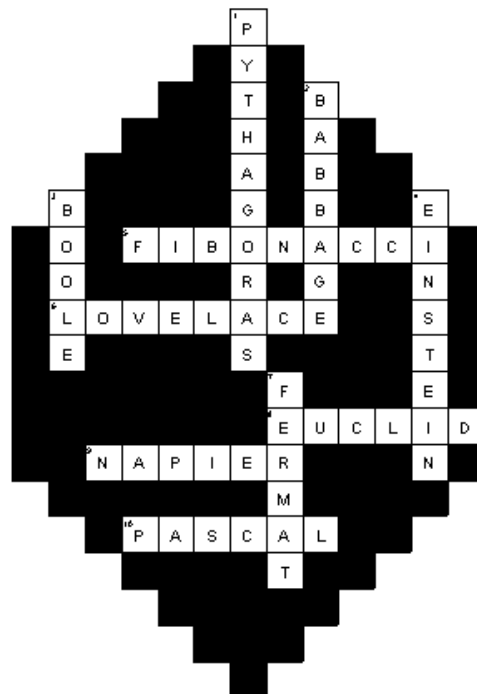
How to apply: Apply online at <http://www.mathpath.org/FacultyandStaff.htm>

Application deadline: February 15, 2016

For more information, go to mathpath.org or contact Professor Paul Zorn at zorn@stolaf.edu

From the Editor

Solutions to last week's crossword



Here's a limerick:

$$\int_1^{\sqrt[3]{3}} z^2 dz \cdot \cos\left(\frac{3\pi}{9}\right) = \ln(\sqrt[3]{e})$$

which of course translates to:

Integral z-squared dz
From 1 to the cube root of 3
times the cosine
of three pi over 9
equals log of the cube root of e.

And it's correct, too!
Each side evaluates to 1 over 3.

Editor-in-Chief:	Akina Khan
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If you would like to submit an article or event to be published in the MSCS Mess, e-mail khan@stolaf.edu

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