

MSCS MESS

Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science
St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057
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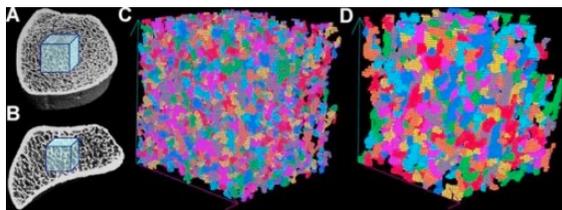
Monday's Colloquium

How Connected Are Your Bones? A Novice's Guide to Bone Micro-architecture

Whom: Lisa Langsetmo (UMN)

Where: RNS 310

When: Monday, Dec. 11th | 3:30 p.m.



About the talk: In this three part talk I will talk about what makes bone strong. I will do this using conceptual ideas from three very different areas of research: 1. Mathematics (in particular Algebraic Topology) 2. Medicine (Osteoporosis, with some tangents related to image processing and biomechanics). 3. Epidemiology (with some statistical sidelines). This will be an introductory talk with the intention to give you the flavor of how mathematics and statistics are related to healthy aging, which is my primary area of research. These seemingly unrelated areas all come together to aid in the understanding of what makes your bones strong and what ultimately fails as you get older.

About the speaker: Uff-da! I could pass the usual tests for being a Minnesota native but have spent a great deal of time in "la belle province" learning to speak French with a funny accent. I have a Ph.D. in mathematics and an M.Sc. in Epidemiology and would love to meet with the students prior to the talk.

COMAP International Modeling Contest

Interested in modeling? Not that kind of modeling, mathematical modeling! The COMAP Modeling Contest is a great opportunity to showcase your skills in applied math, work with a team, and tackle real world problems. The contest runs **February 8-12** and



you can sign up using the google form [here](#). In addition to fame and glory, there are also cash prizes awarded to finalists. Email eising2@stolaf.edu for more information.

CS Candidate Talks

There will also be two more CS candidate talks next week on ***Tuesday December 12th*** and ***Wednesday December 13th***. For more information about location, times, and content, look for posters to be up in RMS early next week.

Relaxation Station

With finals week coming up, this can be an especially stressful time of year. But have no fear, the MSCS Relaxation Station is here! On ***Saturday December 16th***, there will be popcorn, friends, and sugary snacks on the third floor of RMS to help you relax and make it through finals season.

Books, Books, Books!

Can you read? If so, books might be for you! The MSCS faculty have graciously decided to give away a collection of books that were donated to the department several years ago by a friend of the college. It is an eclectic collection, primarily math, but also some books on science, particularly physics, and psychology. Whether you are looking for a gift or a treat for yourself, stop by RMS 600 whenever the room is open to pick up a few books.

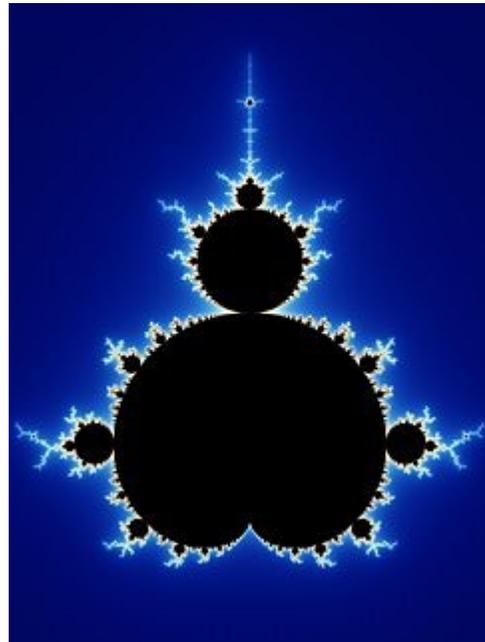
To submit an article or event for publication in the mess, email nevilleq@stolaf.edu; to receive the Mess digitally each Friday, email habero1@stolaf.edu; visit <http://wp.stolaf.edu/mscs/mscs-mess/> for a digital archive of previous MSCS Mess issues.

Happy Holidays!

We here at the Mess would like to wish everyone good cheer and safe travels over winter break and interim.

Holiday Fractal:

Frosty the Snow Mandelbrot Set



Quinton Neville, Editor
William Grodzicki, Adviser
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