About the talk: Disease ecology will continue to be of great interest to governments and health-related professions for the foreseeable future. When wildlife diseases spread to humans they can be lethal (e.g., dengue fever is a potentially lethal mosquito-borne viral infection to which over 40% of the world’s population is now at risk). In addition, wildlife diseases can have a large economic impact to our food supply (e.g., brucellosis can be spread by bison in Yellowstone National Park to livestock outside the park). The field of disease ecology provides challenges and opportunities for statisticians. In this talk I will review some of the recent statistical advances related to related to the ecology of infectious diseases including (1) spatial-temporal models for disease, (2) parameter estimation for models that combine empirical (statistical) and mechanistic (mathematical) models for disease dynamics, and (3) dynamics of vector-borne diseases.

Social Justice and Math Education
An alumnus from the Class of 2012, Charlotte Sivanich, is visiting campus next Monday, February 26th. Charlotte’s StoTalk about Math Education and Just Data was the inspiration for Professor Julie Legler’s current Just Data DUR, a statistical inquiry into social justice. Charlotte has 5 years of teaching experience at Humboldt High School, and lots of insightful and interesting stories to share about education in mathematics. If you are interested, join us in RNS 310 from 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Black History Month

Throughout the long history of mathematics, Black mathematicians have made significant and lasting contributions to the field. During February, as we celebrate Black History Month, take a moment to peruse this article from the AMS chronicling historical and contemporary figures and stories highlighting the experience and importance of Black mathematicians http://www.ams.org/journals/notices/201802/rnoti-p118.pdf. Additionally, the website http://mathematicallygiftedandblack.com/ is a community platform for Black mathematicians, featuring the accomplishments of Black scholars in the mathematical sciences.

Math Problem Solving Club

Do you enjoy problems and puzzles? Are you not getting enough Math in your day to day routine? Join the Math Problem Solving club! The club meets Wednesdays from 5:00-6:00pm in RNS 204. There will be friends, math, and usually, pizza. Additionally the club competes in local, regional, and national problem solving competitions throughout the year, which are a ton of fun and good additions to a resume. For more information, email diveris@stolaf.edu. People of all experiences and backgrounds are welcome!