MSCS 🦁 MESS

Today's Research Seminar

Title:	Games on Finite Groups: GENERATE and DO NOT GENERATE
Speaker:	Bret Benesh
Time:	3:40 PM
Date:	February 28
Place:	RNS 204

About the Talk: Fix a finite group G. Two players can play a game on G as follows. The players take turns selecting an element from G, adding it to a common pile of already-selected elements, and seeing what subgroup the pile of common elements generate. In one game, GENERATE, the player who first causes the common pile to generate G wins; in the other game, DO NOT GENERATE, the player who first causes the common pile to generate G loses. We will look at the winning strategies for a variety of groups, and we will find the nim-numbers, which is a game theoretic way of classifying games.

Next Monday's Colloquium

Title:	Predictive Modeling Cooking Show
Speaker:	Travelers
Time:	3:30 PM
Date:	March 2
Place:	RNS 310

About the talk: The 'Travelers Predictive Modeling Cooking Show' is a window into the kitchen of master chefs as they work, except the chefs are whipping up something different: a predictive model. Come to watch real actuaries and data experts showcase their modeling skills, live and on stage, as they compete to solve a classic real-world problem. You'll learn basic modeling concepts including data "scrubbing," the basic steps to build a model, and how to measure the effectiveness of a model. Featuring audience polling– Bring your mobile device and play along! While we cook, you and the other audience members will build your own collective model to compete with our chefs. This is a unique and entertaining presentation that will enhance your appreciation and understanding of analytics and modeling.

About the Speakers: The colloquium will be presented by five Travelers employees in the actuarial/analytics/data science realm: Rick Sutherland '89, Nathan Hubbell '02, Zach Westermeyer '15, Ellie Greiber '19, and Naveena Spitz.

Travelers Predictive Modeling Cooking Show

If you can't stand the heat… Get out of prediction!

Actuarial Recruiting Informational Session

Travelers will also be holding an Actuarial Recruiting Informational Session at 6 pm in Buntrock 144 following the Cooking Show. Their actuarial internship program provides the opportunity to gain

first-hand experience and training in the insurance industry. They are paid full time and last 10–12 weeks in Hartford, CT and St. Paul, MN.

Katherine Johnson

Katherine Johnson was a Mathematician at NASA who played a crucial role by calculating trajectories that helped Apollo 11 land on the moon. She died on February 24 aged 101. Following her 33-year tenure at NASA, she became an advocate for mathematics education. Here is good article on her life from the New York Times.

To submit an article, event, or anything else for publication in the mess, email jadkow1@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.*

Will Jadkowski, Editor
Jesse Miller, Faculty Adviser
Ellen Haberoth, Mess Czar