

MSCS MESS

Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science
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Women's History Month Edition

This week's issue features some women who are influential mathematicians, statisticians, and computer scientists of the past or present. Also read further on for details on events happening today and next week!

Radia Perlman

Radia Perlman, a computer scientist, played an influential role in developing network tools that allowed the Internet to begin. She attended MIT for bachelor's and master's degrees in math, before earning a PhD in computer science, again at MIT. Perlman's work on networks in the 1980s helped establish "basic traffic rules" for the Internet, and she has continued redeveloping those tools to meet the changing demands of our digital world. (Source: MIT.)



Karen Kafadar

Karen Kafadar is a statistician and Past-President of the American Statistical Association. She earned her PhD in statistics at Princeton in 1979, advised by the famous statistician John Tukey. Since then, she has taught at several institutions, including Indiana University and the University of Virginia, where she currently is serving as department chair. Her research interests include exploratory data analysis, data visualization, and spatial statistics. (Source: Kafadar's CV.)



Emmy Noether

Emmy Noether is one of the most influential female mathematicians in history (and one of the most influential algebraists, period). She was born in Germany in 1882. Noether's father was a mathematician, and upon entering college she began actively studying the field as well. After earning her doctoral degree, she began an active career of teaching and research in mathematics, overcoming numerous gender barriers in the process. Noether developed a wide array of theorems and areas of study, largely concentrated in abstract algebra. (Source: Agnes Scott College.)



Today's Research Seminar

Title: Coding for Reliable
Communication
Speaker: Allison Beemer
Date: **Friday, March 18**
Time: 4:00pm
Location: RNS 204

About the talk: Whenever information is transmitted or stored, it is vulnerable to corruption. The field of mathematical coding theory ad-

dresses this problem by introducing clever redundancy with the goal of safeguarding transmissions against harmful noise. In this talk, we will discuss some fundamental ideas in coding theory as well as state-of-the-art methods for sending and storing information both efficiently and reliably.

About the speaker: Allison Beemer is currently an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. She earned her Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln in 2018, and her B.A. in mathematics from Whitman College in 2012. She held postdoctoral research positions in electrical engineering at Arizona State University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, and the U.S. Army Research Laboratory before joining the faculty at UWEC in 2020. Allison has one cat and one husband, and in her free time enjoys gardening (when the ground is less frozen) and hiking.

CS Grad School Panel Next Week

ACM is very excited to be hosting two St. Olaf alums on **Wednesday, March 23rd from 7-8pm!** The event will be held in **RNS 124**, with the panelists joining virtually. The panel will be on graduate school in computer science. *What do you do in grad school? How do you apply? How can you prepare for grad school as an undergraduate?* They will discuss these topics and more!

The panelists are Suzie Hoops '17, who is currently pursuing a PhD in CS at the University of Minnesota, and Agustin Forero '21, who is currently pursuing a Master's of Engineering in CS at Cornell Tech. ACM highly recommends attending this event if you are curious about grad school in CS or data science!

To submit an article, event, or anything else for publication in the Mess, email mcgowa2@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.

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