

Otterbein College
Spring 2007

Mathematical Sciences

"The science of pure mathematics ...may claim to be the most original creation of the human spirit."

- Alfred North Whitehead

Upcoming Events

The ECC Mathematics Competition will be held March 31 at Heidelberg College. Students from Matt McMullen's Math 300 class will be competing. Good luck!!

The Spring Ohio MAA Conference will be held April 13-14 at Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, OH. The conference will feature undergraduate research presentations, including one by Otterbein's Carrie Ebright. All students are encouraged to attend! There is no registration fee for students, and transportation and lodging will be provided. Interested students should see Terri Contenza by **March 30!!**

Registration for the 2007-08 academic year will take place in April and May. Students are reminded to meet with their advisors early in the quarter. Sophomores and juniors are encouraged to run a degree audit through Cardinal Web to monitor progress toward graduation before meeting with their advisors.

The Honors Convocation will be held in Cowan Hall at 3:00 on May 30. Recipients of department scholarships and awards will be recognized at the ceremony.

Coffee Talk: The department's weekly coffee hour will be 12:30-1:30 each Thursday. Students and faculty are invited to join us in the math commons for coffee, cookies, and conversation.

Important Dates:

Friday, March 30
Education applications due

Saturday, March 31
ECC Math Competition

Fri-Sat, April 13-14
MAA Conference

Tuesday, May 22, 4 pm
Tentative date for department picnic

Distinction Deadline Draws Near

The Distinction Program at Otterbein involves the design and completion of an independent project within the student's major field of study. The project is carried out over the course of the senior year under the guidance of two faculty members in that discipline.

Juniors interested in completing a project should talk to their advisors and consult the faculty member of their choice about possible research topics. Proposals for distinction projects to be completed next year are due in May.

Spring Picnic-- May 22?

Save the date!! The mathematical science's spring picnic *might* be at Alum Creek Park (next to campus on West Main) at 4:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, May 22**. All mathematics, computer science, and actuarial science majors are invited to join us for an afternoon of free food and fun. Bring your frisbees, volleyballs, and appetite! Graduating seniors will be recognized and departmental scholarships will be announced.



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math.otterbein.edu/dept

ADVISING NOTES

As you start thinking about course schedules for next year, keep these things in mind.

- See the department directory below if you don't know how to contact your advisor. (Hopefully this is not the case!!)
- Dr. Huang is on sabbatical leave this quarter. Actuarial Science students should see Dr. Thompson for assistance.
- Math majors should complete Math 220 (offered every winter) and Math 290 (offered every spring) by the end of their sophomore year.
- Computer science majors should try to complete Math 220 (offered every winter) during their sophomore year.
- Rising juniors who are **seeking secondary licensure** must enroll in Math 330 next winter.
- Freshman and sophomore math majors fall under new degree requirements—you must successfully complete Math 230 and *two* sections of Math 300.

Problem Corner

Homer Simpson once dreamed that

$$1782^{12} + 1841^{12} = 1922^{12}$$

Is this true? Bonus if you can determine this (and explain your answer) without the aid of any computational device—in other words, use your head! Double Bonus if you can quote a relevant theorem and name the man who proved that theorem. Triple Bonus if you can do all of the above without consulting any references (print, electronic, or human)!

Congratulations!!!

Sophomore math major Larsa Ramsini was selected to participate in a national REU program at Texas A&M. Students participating in this program will study mathematical modeling in ecology and physiology.

Senior actuarial science major Ashley Warren completed a national REU program at Hope College last summer. Her research group recently submitted their paper to *Pi Mu Epsilon's* undergraduate mathematics journal.

Senior math major Carrie Ebright was awarded Student Research Funds to present her Honors Project at the Ohio MAA's spring meeting in April. Carrie completed her Honor's Project on invariants in geometry under the direction of Professor Jeff Smith.

Thank you!

Otterbein recently hosted an Academic Interest Day for high school seniors who have been accepted to Otterbein for admission next fall. Thanks to majors Larsa Ramsini (math), Ashley Warren (actuarial science), and Justin Kuss (computer science and math) for their help at the department's information sessions.

Graduating Seniors

As you prepare to leave Otterbein, don't forget to visit the department's webpage to register as an alumnus (math.otterbein.edu/dept). Let us know where you're going, what you'll be doing. And keep in touch—we love to hear from old friends. Enjoy your final ten weeks of college! We wish you well!!!

Department Faculty and Staff:

Administrative Assistant:

Trish Patterson, ext 1218

Department Chair:

Susan Thompson, ext 1412

Actuarial Science:

Zhen Huang, ext 1795 (*sabbatical Spring 2007*)

Computer Science:

Duane Buck, ext 1793

Pete Sanderson, ext 1317

Dave Stucki, ext 1722

Mathematics:

Dan Boros, ext 1131

Terri Contenza, ext 1167

Mark Day, ext 1124

Bill Harper, ext 1417

John Hinton, ext 1459

Ioan Hrinca, ext 1794

Tom James, ext 1724

Matt McMullen, ext 1279

Leigh Slauson, ext 1624

Jeff Smith, ext 1623

Zengxiang Tong, ext 1551