

Mathematical Sciences

"With equal passion I have sought knowledge. I have wished to understand the hearts of men. I have wished to know why the stars shine. And I have tried to apprehend the Pythagorean power by which number holds sway about the flux. A little of this, but not much, I have achieved."

-Bertrand Russell

Welcome back!!

We hope you enjoyed your long winter break and are excited to be back at Otterbein. The fall quarter was full of events, from alumni panels to math movie nights. If you missed out on all the fun, don't worry! There's still fun to be had. Read on to learn more about summer research opportunities and events planned for the winter term.

Important Dates:

Mon, Jan 16—No classes
Tues, Jan 17— attend your Monday classes!
Thurs, Jan 19— MLK Convocation, 10 am
Fri-Sat, Mar 31/April 1— MAA Conference
Sat, April 1— ECC Math Competition
Thursdays— Coffee Hour, Noon-1pm

Upcoming Events

Colloquia

Several colloquia will be held during the winter quarter. Come hear about Kevin Mugo's research at Miami University last summer or listen to your favorite professor share new ideas. Watch your e-mail for details!

Coffee Talk

Bring your lunch and join faculty and fellow students for an informal social hour in the math commons every Thursday at noon beginning January 12. Note: the commons area will not be available for study tables or test taking during these times.

Conferences & Competitions

MAA Spring Meeting

Mark your calendars now—The spring meeting of the Ohio Section of the MAA will be held Friday and Saturday, March 31 and April 1. This is the first weekend of the spring quarter. All math students are encouraged to attend! Transportation and lodging will be provided, and the conference registration fee is waived for students. See Terri Contenza for conference and travel information. Deadline: March 2, 2006

ECC Mathematics Competition

The 9th annual ECC Math Competition will be held at Mt. Union College in the afternoon (no 5a.m. departures this year!) on Saturday, April 1. Otterbein typically fields 2-3 teams of 3-4 students. Interested students should enroll in Math 300 during the winter quarter to learn problem-solving strategies and work practice problems from previous competitions. See Dave Stucki for more information about the ECC competition. Deadline: March 2, 2006

Worried that you can't attend both the MAA conference AND the ECC Competition? Never fear! For a limited time only, you can get two for the price of one!! Mount Union is a short drive from Akron. We will make travel arrangements so that students can participate in one or the other or both if they so choose!!

Mathematical Sciences
One Otterbein College
Westerville, OH 43081

Phone: 614-823-1218

Fax: 614-823-3201

math.otterbein.edu/dept

Plan Ahead for the Summer!!

Department majors are encouraged to take advantage of the many research and internship opportunities that are available to them. Doing so takes careful planning and consideration. Most research experiences offer free room and board plus an additional stipend of two- or three- thousand dollars. Although some application deadlines have already passed, it's not too late!!

Where can you find more information? Check the bulletin board in Towers 107B (outside the department's computer lab). Talk to your professors. Head to the campus career center. Or follow the links below.

http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm (a listing of research experiences in mathematics and computer science funded by the National Science Foundation)

<http://www.maa.org/students/undergrad/research.html> (research experiences in mathematics)

<http://www.beanactuary.org/find/atp.cfm> (a directory of actuarial training programs)

<http://www.siam.org/careers/internships.php> (applied math and computer science internships)

<http://www.otterbein.edu/resources/CDC/students/Internships/search.asp> (list of internship resources for the college)

Act now!! Many of these opportunities have January deadlines!

Free to a Good Home

The Mathematical Sciences Department subscribes annually to Microsoft's Academic Alliance. One benefit for students in the department is access to free Microsoft products. Software included in this program includes

- Windows 2000
- Windows XP
- Visual Studio .NET
- Visio Professional
- Virtual PC 2004
- SQL Server 2000
- One Note 2003
- Exchange Server 2003
- Access 2003.

Follow this link for a full list of available software. See **Dr. James** for more information.

Math Tutors Needed

Students are needed to staff the tutoring lab in the Academic Support Center during the winter, spring and summer terms. Tutors should have successfully completed Math 180 or Math 230. Interested students should contact Ellen Kasulis at 823-1362.

MFT & Actuary Exams

All department majors, beginning with this year's freshmen class, will be required to take an exit exam for graduation. For Actuarial Science students, this exam will be one of the professional exams. For math and computer science students, this will be the Major Field Test. This year's seniors are also encouraged to take these tests. This will help the department with assessment. It also gives students the opportunity to find out their own strengths and weaknesses in the field and to see how they compare with other graduating seniors across the country. Seniors should register for MATH/MASC/CSC 498. Susan Thompson has additional information.

Math 300

Looking for an extra credit hour to add to your schedule? Take Math 300 (Problem-Solving)! Math majors (minors) can repeat the course up to three (two) times for credit. The winter class will focus on general strategies in preparation for the ECC competition. The spring class will be an introduction to mathematical research. Join the fun!!

Congratulations!

Sophomore Katie Sweet was the first student to submit a correct solution to the sudoku puzzle in the previous newsletter. Well done! Look for a new problem in the next edition of this newsletter.