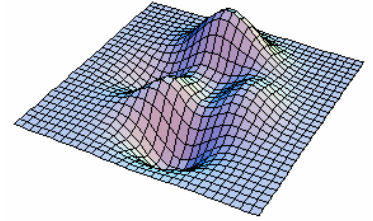
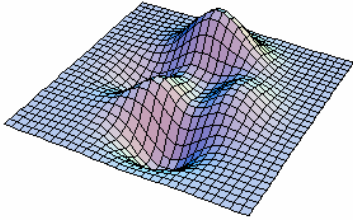


*Mathematics Department
Student Newsletter*



Vol. 6 No. 2

Spring '02

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT RECEPTION

All Mathematics Majors are invited to the 6th annual Mathematics Department Student Reception.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH 4:30-6:00P.M.
RM 125 CLEARY CENTER**

Sign up sheets will be up in April. All students should sign up in the Math Department Office (1020 Cowley Hall) or the tutor room (102 Cowley Hall) by April 15th. If you are a senior, please let us know so that we can have a certificate ready for you. At the reception, we will be announcing the Outstanding Junior and Senior Mathematics Student awards for this year. Past winners are listed in the display case across from the tutor room (102 Cowley Hall).

ATTENTION ALL MATH MAJORS PLANNING TO GRADUATE IN MAY:

Please stop by Bruce Riley's office (1034 Cowley) to notify the Department of your plans. Also, make sure you fill out an "Intent to Graduate" form from the Records and Registration Office in 117 Graff Main Hall as soon as possible.

SEARCH-AND-SCREENS NOW IN PROGRESS

The Mathematics Department will be hiring at least two new faculty members this spring, one in statistics and one in mathematics. The search committees have been screening the applications, and interviews for one of the positions are now in progress. The interviews for the second position should occur in early to mid-February. At each interview, the candidate will give a talk for students and faculty. The dates and times for these talks will be announced as soon as possible. Please consider attending these talks and giving us your feedback on the candidates.

STUDENTS SOLVE CHALLENGING PROBLEMS

A total of twenty-four students solved at least one of the challenging problems this past Fall Semester in the Challenging Problem Competition sponsored by the Math Department. Several students solved multiple problems. The following are students that solved one or more problems:

Matt Bedalov, Matthew Beltz, Dana Benton, Matthew Bierman, Tristan Coughlin, Chris DiRocco, Mark Dubey, Dan Gerber (7th grade student), Andrew Gorman, Mike

Graybar, Laura Heitman, Melissa Korger, Kevin Last, Nathan Leisso, Amanda Lieske, Larry Masterson, Brandon Mittermeyer, Jeff Powell, Justin Schwalke, Jay Snider, Eric Stuart, John Sullivan, Jason Whitehead, and Dean Whiteway, (alumnus).

THE CHALLENGE CONTINUES

The challenging problem competition continues this semester with a new problem posted every two weeks. Problems are posted on the Math Club bulletin board outside the tutor room 102 Cowley Hall. A free copy of the problem can be taken from the envelope on the bulletin board. After each problem has been posted for two weeks, a correct solution to the problem and the names of all correct solvers will be posted on the board.

Also, all current and past problems (and their solvers) are available at the web site:

<http://perth.uwlax.edu/mathematics/POTM>

Or go to the math department web page

<http://perth.uwlax.edu/mathematics/>

and follow the link to the Problem of the Week.

ACTIVE FALL SEMESTER FOR THE MATH CLUB

The Math Club enjoyed a very active and enjoyable Fall Semester. We started the semester with a fun and challenging activity involving paper and scissors (with a strong mathematical flavor) followed by free pizza for everyone. New faculty member Dr. Patricia Nelson gave an interesting talk on factoring integers and encryption. That meeting was followed by another hands-on activity involving mathematical card tricks (and free popcorn!). Dr. Andrew Matchett gave a talk on the mathematics and physics of rainbows. It was very enlightening (get it?). At our last meeting of the semester we watched mathematical videos and ate popcorn.

We also went bowling with the Viterbo University Math Club and then went to Big Al's for pizza. The club is ably led by our three student officers: President Matt Wokasch, and Co-Vice Presidents Victor Feltes and Jesse Schoenemann. The club is also benefiting from the enthusiasm of new co-faculty advisor Dr. Michael Lang, who joined the Math Department this past Fall Semester.

For further information or just to keep up with what the club is doing, you can take a look at the club's web page at:
<http://www.uwlax.edu/faculty/lang/MathClub/>

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SAH Undergraduate Research Fellowships

The College of Science and Allied Health Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship Competition continues this year. Funding is given on a competitive basis to promote and support meaningful undergraduate research activities. The fellowships are for \$3000 plus up to \$250 in supplies. To be eligible, a student must have their first major is in the College of Science and Allied Health, be in good academic standing, have successfully completed 30 credit hours of coursework at UW-L, and have at least one semester remaining before graduation. Interested students should enlist a faculty sponsor and get a copy of the policies and application form. Application forms and fellowship policies can be downloaded at: http://www.uwlax.edu/sah/html/undergrad_research_financialsupport.htm#fellowship. Proposals are due in the college office (105 Graff Main Hall) by 4:00 p.m. on **February 25th, 2002**.

2. Undergraduate Research Grants

The UW-L Undergraduate Research Grant Competition continues this year. Funding is given on a competitive basis to promote and support meaningful undergraduate research activities. All full-time and part-time undergraduates students are eligible to apply. Interested students should enlist a faculty sponsor and pick up application forms and guidelines from the Provost/Vice Chancellor's office in **145 Graff Main Hall**. The guidelines are also available online on the University webpage at <http://www.uwlax.edu/urc/grant-guidelines.html>. Proposals are due on **Wednesday, March 27th, 2002**. Papers for projects which have been funded are submitted for publication in the UW-L Journal of Undergraduate Research.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DAY

The Fifth Annual UW-L Celebration of Undergraduate Research and Creativity will be held on April 12th, 2002. Student researchers are encouraged to present results of their research activities either in the form of a poster or oral presentation. For more information, visit the webpage at <http://www.uwlax.edu/urc/research-day-guidelines.html> or contact Dr. Rick Rodrick, Chair of the Undergraduate Research Committee.

SCHOLARSHIPS

It's that time of year again, applications for UW-L Foundation scholarships will be due soon. A number of endowment funds have been established by alumni, faculty, parents, students, businesses and other organizations. Annual earnings from the investment of these permanent funds provide scholarships, awards and grants to students. These programs are administered by the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse Foundation, Inc. Further information is available from the Advancement and External Relations Office, 215 Main Hall or at <http://perth.uwlax.edu/Advancement/Foundation/scholarships.html>. **Deadline for application is March 1** for the following fall term. Many of these scholarships are general in nature, open to any student based on academic achievement. Some scholarships are awarded on a financial

need basis, while others are reserved for students in particular areas of study. The following scholarships should be of particular interest to mathematics students:

- AAUW Scholarship in Math and Science* (junior or senior math or science majors)
- John Gruden Memorial Scholarship* (junior computer science or math major)
- Eric McIlraith Scholarship in Mathematics* (math majors only)
- Leo and Gertrude Schnur Scholarship in Mathematics* (math majors only)
- Oliver A. Stoffer Scholarship* (junior or senior math, biology, chemistry, geography, or physics majors)
- Strzelczyk Award in Science & Allied Health* (seniors in College of Science & Allied Health)
- Arnold Temte Mathematics Honors Scholarship* (junior or senior math majors only)

300 and 400 LEVEL COURSE OFFERINGS FOR FALL 2002 and SPRING 2003

In order to help you begin to plan your schedule for next year, we thought it might be helpful to give you some information on the schedule for the next two semesters.

The courses above MTH 310 being offered for the Fall 2002 semester include:

MTH 311	Number Theory
MTH 317	Graph Theory
MTH 341	Probability and Statistics I
MTH 353	Differential Equations
MTH 407	Analysis I
MTH 411	Abstract Algebra
MTH 445	Correlation & Regression Analysis

The courses above MTH 310 being offered for the Spring 2003 semester include:

MTH 320	History of Mathematics
MTH 331	Introduction to Modern Geometry
MTH 341	Probability and Statistics I
MTH 353	Differential Equations
MTH 371	Introduction to Numerical Methods
MTH 408	Analysis II
MTH 413	Topics in Linear Algebra
MTH 446	Analysis of Variance and Design of Experiments
MTH 461	Mathematical Physics

INFO ON ACTUARIAL EXAMS

The actuarial exams will be offered on campus on May 22nd. Students who have completed the calculus sequence (MTH 207, 208, 309, 310), MTH 341, 441 and perhaps parts of 442 should be prepared to take the Course 1 Examination - Mathematical Foundations of Actuarial Science. The cost is \$95 and the applications for the May exam must be sent in by **April 1**. The exam is also offered in November (the deadline for applications for the November exam is September 24th). For additional information on the actuarial profession, as well as further details or application forms for the exam, contact Dr. Jack Scheidt, 1023 Cowley Hall.