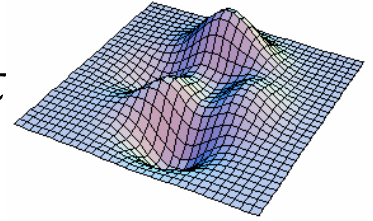
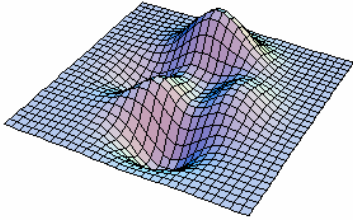


# Mathematics Department Student Newsletter



Vol. 9 No. 2

Spring '05

## MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT RECEPTION

All Mathematics Majors are invited to the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Mathematics Department Student Reception.

Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 4:40-6:00p.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) by April 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 Mathematics and Statistics Research Center (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.

## "GUIDE FOR THE MATH MAJOR" AVAILABLE

The "UW-La Crosse Guide for the Mathematics Major" is meant as a resource for current mathematics majors/minors or anyone considering majoring or minoring in mathematics. The guide has gone through a major revision and should be even more useful than before. The guide is available in hard copy in the Mathematics Office – 1020 Cowley Hall. There is also an electronic version available on our website at:

<http://www.uwlax.edu/mathematics/handbook/c1.htm>

The guide includes information on requirements for the various majors and minors, course descriptions and the course offering pattern, as well as information on activities on campus, scholarships and tutoring opportunities, internships and undergraduate research, and general career opportunities after graduation. We hope that you will find this a useful source of information on our programs and other activities.

## ACTIVE FALL SEMESTER FOR THE MATH CLUB

The Math Club enjoyed a very active and enjoyable Fall Semester. The beginning of the fall semester started off with the Annual Fall Picnic at Myrick Park. Both faculty and students

turned out in huge numbers, despite the thunderstorm, to enjoy the hamburger and hotdogs cooked to perfection by Dr. Will.

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/mathematics/mathclub.html>.

## FALL "MATH COFFEES": A HUGE SUCCESS

The fall semester's "Math Coffees" presented numerous talks on a variety of mathematical and statistical ideas. The spring semester's "Math Coffees" are starting off the Dr. Milan Lukic from Viterbo University talk on "*The cos(x) - Euler's Perspective*" on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Check out the Math Coffee web page for upcoming talks at:

<http://www.uwlax.edu/mathematics/MathCoffees.htm>.

If you're not sure if a talk is for you, come for the coffee and treats anyway!

Fall 2004 Speakers:

- December 9, Dr. Heather Hulett, UW-L, "*A talk about nothing: A brief history of Zero*"
- November 18, Dr. Mariza de Andrade, Mayo Clinic, "*Variance Components Models in Linkage Analysis*"
- November 11, Kristopher Presler, FSA MAAA, UW-Eau Claire, "*Actuarial Science: A Career Choice Worth Exploring*"
- October 28, Josephine Steel, UW-L Mathematics Student, "*Tessellating Planes and Spheres with Regular Polygons*"
- October 14, Dr. Jennifer Kosiak, UW-L, "*Redefining Classroom Assessment*"
- October 7, Tony Batzler, UW-L Mathematics Student, "*My Internship Experience at the Mayo Clinic*"

## CHALLENGING PROBLEMS SOLVED

Eight individuals demonstrated their mathematical prowess by solving one or more of the Mathematics Department's challenging problems last semester. Those individuals were Mike Graybar (5), Jay Snider (4), Gary Dickinson (4), Kurt Grunwald, Craig Tainter, Kirk Wienkes, Eric Wiita, and K. Wilson (high school senior from Fond du Lac, future UWL student).

## THE CHALLENGE CONTINUES

The challenging problem competition continues this semester. New problems will be posted every two weeks on the Mathematics Department bulletin outside the Mathematics and Statistics Research Center, 102 Cowley Hall. and at our web site

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

After the problem has been posted for two weeks, a correct solution to the problem and the names of all correct solvers will be acknowledged at both locations.

## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Funds to support undergraduate research are available both within the College of Science and Allied Health through the SAH Dean's Fellowships, Student Travel Grants and Student Supplies Grants, and on a university-wide level through the UW-L Undergraduate Research Grants. Funding for each of these programs is given on a competitive basis to promote and support meaningful undergraduate research activities.

### 1. SAH Undergraduate Research Fellowships

The College of Science and Allied Health Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program continues this year. Interested students should enlist a faculty sponsor and get a copy of the policies and application form. Additional information, application forms and fellowship policies are available online at

[http://www.uwlax.edu/sah/html/undergrad\\_research.htm](http://www.uwlax.edu/sah/html/undergrad_research.htm)

Proposals are due in the college office (105 Graff Main Hall) by 4:00 p.m. on **February 23rd, 2004**.

### 2. Undergraduate Research Grants

The UW-L Undergraduate Research Grant Competition also continues this year. 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**, or get them online on the Undergraduate Research and Creativity web site located at

<http://www.uwlax.edu/urc/index.html>

Proposals are due on **March 23th, 2005**. Papers for projects that have been funded are submitted for publication in the UW-L Journal of Undergraduate Research.

## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DAY

The Eighth Annual Celebration of Undergraduate Research and Creativity is scheduled for Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005. Student researchers are encouraged to present results of their research activities either in the form of a poster or oral presentation. More information can be found at

<http://www.uwlax.edu/urc/celebration.htm>

In addition, the 6<sup>th</sup> annual UW-System Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity will be held on

April 29, 2005 at the University of Wisconsin- Oshkosh. For more information,

<http://www.uwlax.edu/urc/symposium.htm>

## 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. Further information is available from the Advancement and External Relations Office, 215 Main Hall or at <http://www.foundation.uwlax.edu/sch.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 the College of Science & Allied Health)
- Arnold Temte Mathematics Honors Scholarship* (junior or senior math majors only)

## 300 and 400 LEVEL COURSE OFFERINGS FOR FALL 2005 and SPRING 2006

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 2005 semester include:

- MTH 317 – Graph Theory
- MTH 353 – Differential Equations
- MTH 407 – Analysis I
- MTH 411 – Abstract Algebra I
- MTH 441 – Mathematical Statistics I
- MTH 444 – Introduction to Sampling

The courses above MTH 310 being offered for the Spring 2006 semester include:

- MTH 331 – Introduction to Modern Geometry
- MTH 371 – Introduction to Numerical Methods
- MTH 410 – Complex Analysis
- MTH 412 – Abstract Algebra II
- MTH 442 – Mathematical Statistics II
- MTH 447 – Nonparametric Statistics
- MTH 480 – Studies in Applied Mathematics