Trivia Answers:
Get to Know Your Faculty
And the New Majors

We’ve given you the opportunity to guess at some fun facts about both the Math Department faculty as well as the new sophomore math majors. We hope you enjoyed the challenge. The winner is “The Social Math Majors” (Christina, Zach, Ted, Max, and Danny) with 12 correct. We assume they do not hold exclusive ownership of sociability among math majors…

To give a whole new dimension to your experience of the math department, here are the answers to the trivia quizzes:

The Faculty

- Katie visited Laura Ingalls Wilder’s house at Plum Creek.
- Mark’s Erdős Number became an even prime this year.
- Eric put two cars in a ditch in one day.
- Mike has a cat who plays fetch and drinks from the toilet.
- Deanna rode a camel to see the pyramids.
- Josh lost a DDR game 7000000 to 5.
- Sue swam in an underground cave in Cancun.
- Steve was an altar boy.
- Gail was featured on the news for solving the Rubik’s cube.
- Bob is a black belt in Karate.
- Laura biked 3000 miles in one summer.
- Russ climbed Mount Kilimanjaro twice.

- Sam is a purveyor of wild mushrooms to restaurants.
- Melissa learned to water ski at age 5.
- Jack lost to the reigning NCAA D I fencing champ by one point.

The Sophomores

- Tommy coaches a swim team during the summer.
- Alex worked as a full time exterminator for three summers.
- Aaron loves scrabble.
- Amy is Carleton’s women’s ice hockey goalie.
- Lizbee has gone camping with family every summer since birth.
- Julie plays in the Carleton Bell Choir.
- Mary was a member of a high school Science Olympiad team called the Science Pirates. The team icon was crossed test tubes; the team slogan was “ARRRGon!”
- Gabe is certified as an interpretive trail guide for state parks in his home state.
- Weiqi won the national youth age-group badminton competition.
- Cory plays competitive ping-pong.
- Andy can produce and master musical recordings.
- Landon is a self-proclaimed “music freak” who has been playing the piano since age 8 and is very interested in the connection between music and math.
- Erik is a co-author on two publications in the field of biology.
In Memory of Steve Galovich

Steven P. Galovich was a mathematics professor and associate dean of the college at Carleton from 1974 to 1994. For the next twelve years, he was at Lake Forest College, where he served as provost, dean of the faculty, and mathematics professor. He specialized in number theory. His excellence as a mathematical writer was recognized in 1988, when he received the Carl B. Allendoerfer Award for expository writing in mathematics. Professor Galovich was especially supportive of student research, and personally involved many Carleton students in mathematical explorations. His textbook, *Introduction to Mathematical Structures*, and its revision, *Doing Mathematics: An Introduction to Proofs and Problem Solving* have been used at Carleton for the past twenty years.

Professor Galovich passed away in December 2006, at the age of 61. In his honor, Dr. William E. Lang ’74 and many other friends and colleagues created a prize in mathematics here at Carleton. The Steven P. Galovich Prize in Mathematics is an endowed fund intended to support the graduating mathematics major or majors who best reflect Professor Galovich’s enthusiasm for and love of mathematics, zestful joy in life, sense of humor and compassion for others.

Second Grade Goodness

The second grade at Bridgewater Elementary School had a great time doing Challenge Math this year—for those who don’t know what that is, these students got to spend an hour a week learning fun and challenging topics in mathematics from Carleton seniors Rob, Aparna, Luke, and Hannah. These students were even able to solve part of one of the Problems of the Week in our very own *Goodsell Gazette* this term. Kudos to these incredible students!

PROBLEMS OF THE WEEK

1. A few students from the geometry class at Wohascum High discovered six old railroad ties the other day and decided to use them to build a regular tetrahedron. They started by putting down three of the ties, which were six feet long, in an equilateral triangle. Unfortunately, they then realized that only one of the three remaining ties was also six feet long; the other two were seven and eight feet, respectively. Since the students had nothing to cut the ties with, it was decided to go ahead and finish building a tetrahedron anyway. How much taller was the result than the students had originally intended?

2. For a real number $x > 1$, we repeatedly replace $x$ by $x - \frac{2009}{x}$ until the result is $\leq 1$. Let $N(x)$ be the number of replacement steps that is needed. Determine, with proof, whether the improper integral $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{N(x)}{x^2} \, dx$ converges.

One serious attempt on last week’s first problem arrived, but so far no correct solutions have come in this week. By the time you read this, my own solutions to at least one week’s, and maybe two weeks’, worth of problems from the beginning of the term should be posted in the hallway outside CMC 217. Have a good midterm break, and do solve some problems!

- Mark Krusemeyer