Meet Your New SDAs!
Sarah and Kaitlyn are graduating this year, but we still have SDAs-- Cameron Wright and Anne Grosse will be keeping the math and stats department lively in the coming year! SDAs are a resource for all current students (especially people new to or interested in the math major) who'd like to talk to an experienced upper-level student about courses, registration, what the major's like, and all things mathematics and statistics!

Congratulations to Steven P. Galovich Prize Winners
Each year the Mathematics and Statistics Department awards the Stephen P. Galovich Prize to the graduating senior or seniors who best embody the personal qualities of the former faculty member for whom the award is named. Steve Galovich taught in this department from 1974 to 1991, and he brought to his work enthusiasm and love for mathematics, a zestful joy for life, a great sense of humor, and compassion for others. The Galovich Prize was endowed by an alumus, William Lang '74, who was affected by Steve's teaching and mentorship. This year the department is pleased to name Harrison Reeder and Kaitlyn Cook the co-recipients of the prize. Congratulations, Kaitlyn and Harrison!

Exploding Dots: A Math Talk by James Tanton
James Tanton, Mathematician in Residence at the Mathematical Association of America, is giving a talk at 4 p.m. in Bolliou 104 on Thursday, May 7. He'll talk about how exploding dots can explain grade-school arithmetic, high-school polynomial algebra, and some calculus and number theory. He'll also use the construction to explore some unanswered research questions that intrigue mathematicians to this day!

Bring a pencil and paper-- the experience is going to be interactive!

Alumni Event: What Can You Do With a Law Degree?
Interested in Law School? On Wednesday, May 6 the Career Center is hosting an Alumni event from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in Weitz 236. Eight Carleton graduates will be there to take part in a round-table discussion of what they do with their law degrees in four different sectors: working in the corporate world, practicing as members of law firms, working for the government, and doing work in the public interest sector. Space is limited to the first 40 students, so RSVP through the Tunnel! Contact Erin Chamlee at echamlee@carleton.edu with questions.
Department Ice Cream Social

Your SDAs for the year, Kaitlyn Cook and Sarah Ann Milstein, are hosting an ice cream social for math and math/stats majors on Tuesday, May 12 during common time (12:00 - 1:00 p.m.). Kaitlyn has promised to arrange for beautiful weather so everyone can spend time outside and enjoy both sunshine and sweets on the CMC/Boliou terrace. But in case of rain the event will be moved to CMC 206.

Fun Math Books

There's a new book about math out-- and it's not a textbook. While it won't teach you about Cantor sets or projective planes, it'll make entertaining summer reading while you're away from Carleton for three months!

Finding Zero, by mathematician Amir Aczel, is an attempt to uncover the origins of the number zero. Although it's ubiquitous today (and forms half of the binary language computers use!), zero was unknown in Europe until the 13th century. And while some of the oldest zeros in the world can be found in Hindu temples in India, there's some evidence to support the theory that the concept of zero was originally transmitted to India by Arab traders who lived under the Baghdad Caliphate (founded in 750 CE). But are there older zeros hiding in other corners of the world? Who invented them?

Problems of the Fortnight

Problem 5:
Let $p(x)$ be a degree $n$ polynomial such that $p(0)=1$, $p(1)=2$, $p(2)=4$, ..., and $p(n)=2^n$; Find $p(n+1)$.

Problem 6:
A group has 326 members, and the members of the group have been numbered in order of their admittance to the group, so their numbers are 1, 2, ..., 326. The group is considering adopting a new mascot, and each member votes for one of the new possibilities: the penguin, the anteater, the lemming, the knight, or the retriever. Prove that there are three not necessarily distinct members of the group who all voted for the same mascot such that the sum of the numbers of the first two is equal to the third.

Solutions to problems of the fortnight should be submitted to Tommy Occhipinti via mailbox. Problems will remain open until they are solved; once a problem has been solved, a solution is posted in the math department hallway on the second floor of the CMC.