Congratulations, Seniors!

It has been an exciting three terms in the Math and Stats Department-- with exciting guest lecturers, ice cream socials, departmental tug-of-war (still to come!), and classes taught by and taken with some of the coolest people on campus.

While some people in this department are coming back in September, others aren't. Spending four years with this year's graduates, however, has been a truly wonderful experience. Take some time below to find out what some of this year's seniors have planned for life after graduation. Congratulations on a job well done, seniors!

Goodbye to the Seniors!

Kaitlyn Cook
Favorite Class: Combinatorial Theory. "I really enjoyed the sort of logic that the counting problems required, and I especially liked thinking about the connections between combinatorics, probability, and genetics!"
Advice to Current Students: Get to know professors outside of class. So many professors at Carleton (and in the math department) are really cool people who have done really cool things. Talking to those professors (about math/stats and about other things) has definitely made my time here better.
Plans After Carleton: I'll be starting a Biostatistics PhD program at Harvard in the fall.

Larkin Flodin
Favorite Class: Algebraic Number Theory. "The material was really interesting and built nicely on itself, and Rafe is a great professor!"
Advice to Current Students: Try to take classes with lots of different professors. There are lots of good professors in the department, and they each have something a little bit different to offer.
Plans After Carleton: I'm studying theoretical

Harrison Reeder
Favorite Class: Statistical Computing, because "it introduced me to so many cool text mining and simulation techniques that I find super useful!"
Advice to Current Students: Remember what you learn in linear algebra! I don't, but boy do I wish I did.
Plans After Carleton: I'm moving to Boston to work at Analysis Group, an economic consulting firm. Eventually I hope to go to stats grad school too!

Will Salon
Favorite Class: Linear Algebra, "because Stephen Kennedy is arguably the most entertaining professor at Carleton."
Advice to Current Students: No matter what you are majoring in, take as many statistics classes as possible. A strong grasp of statistics will give you a clear advantage in our increasingly data-driven world.
Plans After Carleton: I am going to be an Analyst at an economic, financial, and strategy consulting firm called Analysis Group. I am working in their Boston office, so after graduation I will be moving to Boston.
computer science in the MS/PhD program at UMass Amherst in the Fall.

Matt Godfrey
Favorite Class: Combinatorics, "because every problem is like solving a puzzle."
Advice to Current Students: For math majors: get your talk credits done early so you don't have to worry about them at the end. For everyone: school is definitely important but don't forget to take advantage of other things Carleton has to offer. There are a lot of little things that make this place great!
Plans After Carleton: I plan on being up in the Twin Cities with some sort of job, but that part has yet to be figured out.

Nimita Iyer
Favorite Class: Functions of a Complex Variable, "because it was fun, and because Steve Kennedy is the best!"
Advice to Current Students: Stay on top of your homework!
Plans After Carleton: I will be working and living at a soup kitchen in Boston, Massachusetts.

Devon Manber
Favorite Class: Abstract Algebra. "I don't need to explain myself. It's abstract algebra."
Advice to Current Students: Overload. With math. And maybe a little CS. But mainly math. Take ALL the math classes.
Plans After Carleton: I'll be working with Epic in Madison, Wisconsin after I graduate.

Sarah Milstein
Favorite Class: Topology, because "the subject matter is really interesting and visual. Also, Helen Wong's enthusiasm is contagious."
Advice to Current Students: Do homework with other people! It makes the work easier and more fun. Plus you can make new friends.
Plans After Carleton: I'm starting a math PhD program at the University of Minnesota next fall.

John Lee
Favorite Class: Elementary Number Theory. "This was the best one among all the courses I've taken. Why? Since numbers are cool, and so is Rafe."
Advice to Current Students: It's okay not to understand some ideas. A math major does not need to be an expert in every single field. Take

Ken Schiller
Favorite Class: Topics in Statistical Computing, "because in addition to sampling and simulation techniques, we learned a variety of skills including how to make graphs that don't suck, and how to extract data sets from online sources."
Advice to Current Students: Take more classes outside your major (that includes humanities classes!), and take fewer courses overall.
Plans After Carleton: At the end of June I'll start working as a web developer for a startup called BetterWorks located in Palo Alto, California.

Rachel Schuh
Favorite Class: Real Analysis I. "It was my first really difficult math class, and proving calculus is cool! Also, Gail is the best."
Advice to Current Students: Math people -- talk to stats people! And stats people -- talk to math people! The departments are too segregated!
Plans After Carleton: I will be working as a research analyst at the New York Federal Reserve.

Matt SJ
Favorite Class: Topology, "because Helen is super great and the problems are fun."
Advice to Current Students: ??? (Advice is hard!)
Plans After Carleton: I am starting a math PhD program at the University of Minnesota next fall.

Izaak Sunleaf
Favorite Class: Combinatorial Theory. "It was just a lot of fun."
Advice to Current Students: Plan ahead: figure out what math classes you want to take early on because the time flies by! Your advisor can be really helpful with this.
Plans After Carleton: I plan on working in the solar industry, but this summer I'm taking some time to travel.

Zach Walsh
Favorite Class: Measure Theory, because "it had to be one of the ones I took with Gail."
Advice to Current Students: A Make sure you do the Budapest Semester in Mathematics!
Plans After Carleton: Next fall I'll be starting in the Combinatorics and Optimization program at the University of Waterloo (yeah, the one in Canada).
different courses, and know which field you are specialized in.

**Plans After Carleton:** I'm staying on campus another year. (So you're welcome to visit me whenever you're struggling with math!) I'm planning to have a campus job, work with my own math research and personal math blog, and learn math braille.

**Grace Newman**
**Favorite Class:** Real Analysis II, "because it was a small group of huge nerds solving cool problems!"
**Advice to Current Students:** Take advantage of the math community for help, moral support, and an awesome group of people to know.

**Plans After Carleton:** Next year I'll be a Helen Fellow in computational science research and teaching at the American Museum of Natural History.

**Kit Pavlekovsky**
**Favorite Class:** Real Analysis, "because it was so satisfying when the proofs worked."
**Advice to Current Students:** Don't take all your hard classes at the same time!

**Plans After Carleton:** I will be doing research over the summer then teaching in Malaysia.

**Bibek Pokharel**
**Favorite Class:** Linear Algebra and Mathematical Structures. "The content was abstract and pushed my imagination a lot."
**Advice to Current Students:** Take courses that you do not know anything about. Contrary to popular belief, all math concepts are useful (depending a little on your definition of useful). It is easy to think that you are not good at math or that someone else is better than you, but do not let such thoughts discourage you. A Carleton math alumnus once told me, it might be that you can never be the strongest person on Earth, but you do NOT need to be the strongest to be a firefighter. Be fearless, and do math."

**Plans After Carleton:** I am going to University of New Mexico, to pursue PhD in Physics, hopefully with a specialization in Quantum Information.

**Edward Wang**
**Favorite Class:** Gail's Real Analysis. "The class was really fun and the material very relatable to my interest area. It helped me with my comps, which was led by Allison and research I did with Bob. (both of whom are some of my favorite professors as well!)"
**Advice to Current Students:** Explore math and find something that interests you. Then use all the resources at the Math Department to make discoveries. You will be amazed by how exciting it could be.

**Plans After Carleton:** I will be a graduate student at MIT studying quantitative finance (which is basically just math and stats).

**Wenth Wang**
**Favorite Class:** Combinatorial Theory, because there was "lots of creative thinking. This class really helped me develop my problem solving skills."
**Advice to Current Students:** Start the process early to find a great internship if you intend to work directly out of school. For graduate programs, take more hard classes and conduct independent studies with professors.

**Plans After Carleton:** I will be working for Citigroup as an analyst in their investment banking group in Hong Kong.

**Tessa Whalen-Wagner**
**Favorite Class:** Combinatorics of Symmetric Functions, "because it connected what I would've thought were quite different areas of mathematics, and because Eric was really nice when talking in front of the class made me cry."
**Advice to Current Students:** Smoke more cigarettes. Euclid's proof is way prettier if it's not by contradiction.

**Plans After Carleton:** I will be working as a tutor in Denver, Colorado, and preparing for grad school applications.

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**RSVP to the Math Department Picnic!**
The annual math department picnic is on Tuesday, June 2nd on the terrace between the CMC and Boliou from 12:00-1:00. There will be all sorts of food provided-- and this is a great opportunity to taste your professors’ cooking!

A link to RSVP at is below-- please follow it and fill out the form (it’s only two questions!) so we can be sure to have enough food for everybody!

http://bit.ly/1FDS2SU

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**Women in Mathematics and Statistics**

Wondering if math is a great field to work in as a woman? The Wall Street Journal thinks so! In an article published on May 28 ("Best Jobs for Women"), they list being an actuary and being a statistician as two of the best jobs for women: actuaries earn a median salary of $93,680 annually, with job growth in the field projected at 26%. Statisticians make a median $75,560 each year, with job growth projected at 27%.

Some of the best careers for women are in STEM, and women comprise a growing proportion of degree-holders in science, technology, math, and engineering. Last year 40% of undergraduate degrees awarded in statistics were earned by women!

The other top jobs are listed at http://blogs.wsj.com/economics/2015/05/28/best-jobs-for-women-think-science-or-management/ for the curious, and the article also contains a link to a more complete version of the report.

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**Problem of the Fortnight**

A circle of radius 1 is drawn in the plane, and an equilateral triangle is drawn to circumscribe it. This triangle is inscribed in a circle, which is then inscribed in a square. The square is inscribed in a circle, which is inscribed in a regular pentagon, and so on. Is the limit of the radii of these circles finite or infinite?

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.

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*Editors: Maggie Sauer, Bob Dobrow*

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