The Nth Annual Math Major Potluck!

Celebrate the Memorial Day holiday in Carleton style---not by having a day off, but by cooking for your friends and colleagues! The nth annual math major/faculty potluck will occur Sunday at 6 pm at Steve and Deanna’s, 1000 Greenleaf Ct. in Northfield. Bring a dish (salad, appetizer, entree, dessert) to pass. It’s a bit of a hike to Steve and Deanna’s (half an hour by foot), so if you would prefer to catch a ride, or are available to offer a ride to someone, e-mail Steve (skennedy) and he’ll coordinate transportation.

Do You Want the Best Job on Campus Next Year?!

The Math Department is still looking for a Goodsell Gazette Editor. A quote from the current editor herself, “This has to be the best on campus job I’ve ever had. I am always up to date on all the math events and news and feel so connected to the math department!” Interested? Contact Sue Jandro (sjandro@carleton.edu).

An Interesting Double Major: Math and Math?

A major in our department requires six regular courses numbered above 236. Up to two of those can be fulfilled on an off-campus study program or by taking specific computer science courses. However, you might be surprised to learn that six current seniors have taken enough regular, six-credit courses in our own department (not counting independent studies, off-campus studies, or computer science) to have been able to double major in Math and Math! Congratulations on their Honorary Double Majors go to Christophe Dethier (13 classes, and he went to BSM), Xin Chen (14), Shunji Li (14), Henry Luo (15), Justin Troyka (15, and he went to BSM), and Andy Hardt (17). (Others who earned the Double Major honor if you count BSM include Daoji Huang, Leo Olivares, Ben Strasser, and Chelsea Yost.)

GLORIOUS VICTORY!

Congratulations to Andrew Elenbogen (’15), who defeated finalist Zach Walsh (’15) to win this year’s department Quoridor tournament!

Meet a Major: Ben Strasser

This week’s Gazette introduces Ben Strasser, a senior mathematics major from Atlanta, Georgia. Ben took the time out of his busy comps presentation day to have this interview with me!

GG: Why did you decide to become a math major?  
BS: Cuz math is fun.
GG: What are you doing after graduation?  
BS: I’m going to be starting a PhD program at the University of Minnesota.
GG: What kind of math do you want focus on?  
BS: Algebra, definitely algebra.
GG: Once you get your PhD do you have an idea about what you want to do?  
BS: Absolutely not, I’ll cross that bridge once I come to it.
GG: And what are you doing this summer?
BS: I’m going to Peru with my family and we’ll hop over to Ecuador for about a week.
GG: That sounds so fun! Anything else you want to share about yourself?
BS: I need to think of something fun and interesting or else I’ll seem like a boring square… (laughs) … I can shoot basketball hoops on a pogo stick. I haven’t done it in a while but it was my junior high school talent show talent.

Advertising Associate Position

Social Code, a Washington Post Company, is looking for a full time employee to do Facebook Analytics and Advertising. The Ad Associate is responsible for the management of advertising campaigns on multiple social platforms like Facebook and Twitter. Ad Associates will assist with additional projects pertaining to research and reporting as needed. This is a highly analytical position but also demands a bit of creative flair. Sound like you? If so, please send your resume and a brief cover letter to resumes@socialcode.com.

Speak With Alums in Consulting, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship

Next Wednesday, May 29, two Carleton alums involved in consulting, marketing and entrepreneurship will be featured in the Career Center’s 30 minutes program. Schedule a meeting with Ryan Navratil ’03, Owner/Principal Scientist, RTNavratil Consulting, or Patty Mitchell ’84, Co-Founder and President, Shaker Consulting Inc.

Ryan has worked as an associate research scientist in the sample logistics and materials management division at the Pfizer Research Technology Center, as a Customer Operations and Corporate Strategy consultant for Motista, as a Conservation Project Management consultant for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and as a Director of Business Development (consultant) for CleanTech.

Patty is the Co-Founder and President of Shaker Consulting Inc. in the San Francisco Bay Area, and has acted as the interim General Manager and Chief Revenue Officer at Motista, a connection intelligence company; as the CEO and Co-Founder of Arcala, Inc., as the President of the Consumer Media Division of Move Inc., and as the SVP/General Manager Real Cities Network and VP of National Sales at Knight Ridder Digital.

PROBLEMS OF THE WEEK

1. Suppose you start at the origin in the coordinate plane and you take a series of steps of length 1, where each step is in one of the coordinate directions (east, north, south, or west), with the restriction that you can never take three steps in a row in the same direction. As a function of the integer n, what is the least number of steps that you can take to get from (0,0) to (2013, n)?

2. Given a parabola in the plane, describe the locus (set) of all points P in the plane such that there are two perpendicular lines through P that are tangent to the parabola:
   a) in the particular case of the parabola y = x^2;
   b) for a general parabola.

Along with a lot of actual rainfall, the last few days brought a tentative end to the drought of student solutions; Justin Troyka solved the first problem, and is welcome to collect a B.B.O.P. item. (There was another serious but incorrect attempt on that problem, and apparently some people are investigating the second problem; will this be the week for a flood?) Solutions to both problems from last week also arrived from John Snyder in Oconomowoc.

-Mark Krusemeyer

Editors: Gabriella Newman
Bob Dobrow
Problems of the Week: Mark Krusemeyer
Subscriptions & Web: Sue Jandro