Ice Cream Social Today!

Ice cream social for all students interested in mathematics on Friday, September 16, 2011 (today) right outside the CMC. In the event of rain, the event will be held in the CMC lobby.

Putnam Registration Time is Here

Although fall term is just getting underway, it’s time to register for this year's William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition. As many of you know, the “Putnam” is a challenging exam focusing on mathematical insight and ingenuity; typically several thousand undergraduates across the United States and Canada participate, and the median score is usually less than 10 out of a possible 120. Whether you’ve taken the exam before, or are considering taking it for the first time, you’ll probably enjoy getting experience with past Putnam problems at our weekly problem-solving group, which meets every week on Wednesday, from 4:30 pm to 6 pm in CMC 328.

This year the Putnam will be held on Saturday, December 3. That's during our winter break, but we'll gladly make arrangements for you to take the Putnam at another college or university. If you'd like to sign up, contact Eric Egge in person or via email (eegge). If you'd like more information, see the bulletin board outside Math Skills, where a brochure will soon be posted, or talk to Eric. Don’t delay; although the Putnam is still more than two months away, we have to submit a participant list soon, so your deadline for signing up is Friday, September 30.

SAMSI Undergraduate Workshop

February 24-25, 2012

As part of its Education and Outreach Program for 2011-2012, the Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI) will offer a two-day undergraduate workshop on topics of current interest in statistics and applied mathematics. In addition to an overview of current and planned SAMSI Research Programs, the program topic will be covered in some depth. This workshop will be held on February 24-26, 2012 at SAMSI. Applications received by Friday, January 27, 2012, will receive full consideration. SAMSI will reimburse appropriate travel expenses as well as provide food and lodging. Send questions to ugworkshop@samsi.info.

Climate Math

Interested in the mathematics of the earth's climate? The Mathematics Department of the University of Minnesota broadcasts its weekly Mathematics of Climate seminar over the web and encourages Carleton students to join in. Interested? Contact Steve Kennedy.

Blogging from Budapest

Justin Troyka ('13) is on the Budapest program this term and is blogging about the experience. He cautions that he hasn’t written much about math yet, but that it is forthcoming. Keep up with Justin and learn a bit about the experience of the Budapest program at http://justinbudapesten.blogspot.com. For further information on the Budapest Semester in Mathematics program, visit www.budapestsemesters.com.
**Lunch with Danny Wells ('10)**

Come join us for lunch with Danny at the LDC Shearer Room Monday, September 19th noon-1pm! Interested in the applications of math? Danny is a second-year PhD graduate student in Northwestern's Applied Math Department and recently was awarded an NSF fellowship. His research program develops and implements mathematical models to study cancer cells. Always enthusiastic, Danny is a great person to talk to about applied math, graduate schools, fellowship applications, and life after Carleton.

**Problems of the Week**

Welcome to a new year of weekly problems! For those of you who are new (to Carleton, or to reading the Goodsell Gazette), here's how this works: Barring exceptional circumstances, two problems will appear here each week that we are in session. Typically, the first problem will be easier, or at least no harder, than the second, but I may not always judge that correctly, and also it may depend on your specific background. Eventually, solutions to these problems will be posted in the CMC. (Right now, you can find all problems posed last spring, along with detailed solutions for them, in the hallway outside CMC 218.) In the meantime, you are encouraged, entreated, exhorted, almost harangued (you get the idea) to submit your own solutions. This can be done by putting them in my mailbox in the CMC, or by sending them through campus mail. (Sending solutions by e-mail may or may not work; sometimes I have trouble extracting and/or reading attachments.) If you solve a problem correctly (before my own solution to it is posted, of course), your solution will be acknowledged in this space, and you will also be eligible for a modest prize. In order for your solution to be mentioned in the Gazette that comes out at the end of a particular week, it should reach me by Tuesday evening of that week. By the way, incorrect solutions whose authors can be identified (and, eventually, also correct solutions) will be returned in private, with supportive comments.

Now that you have an idea of the process, here are the first week’s problems:

1. Consider the set \{1, 2, ..., n\} of positive integers through \(n\). For what values of \(n\) is it possible to split up this set into three subsets so that the sum of the integers in each of the subsets is the same? ("Splitting up" implies that no two of the subsets have any integer in common. The subsets don't have to have the same numbers of integers in them.) Of course, for your solution to be complete, it should show why your answer is correct.

2. Suppose you have an unlimited supply of each of two kinds of rectangular blocks, one with dimensions 2 x 5 x 11 and one with dimensions 3 x 7 x 13. Can you assemble such blocks to form a single large block of size 150 x 200 x 5000? If so, explain how you know it can be done; if not, explain why not. (Of course, you are allowed to put the blocks in any orientation.)

- Mark Krusemeyer

**Free Gazette Subscriptions**

To receive an e-link to the Goodsell Gazette each Friday of the school year, send an email to Sue Jandro at sjandro.