Math & C.S. Colloquium – February 10th

Get to know Auto-Owners Insurance Company and how your math and computer science degrees can work in the real world! Discover how the Underwriting Systems and Quality Assurance Departments work to provide a level of high quality testing to ensure our systems run smoothly for our agents and underwriters. Learn the day-to-day happenings of Business Analysts, Quality Analysts, and Quality Automation Analysts. Alma College alumnae, **Lauren Steinhurst** (Business Analyst) and **Adrien Allward** (Quality Automation Analyst), will be giving the presentation.

"Job Opportunities for Math and C.S. Majors at Auto-Owners Insurance"

Presenters: **Lauren Steinhurst** and **Adrien Allward**
Date: **Wednesday, Feb. 10th**
Time: 4:00
Place: SAC 113

Refreshments at 3:50

Important Dates for Seniors

Attention all seniors! Please be aware of the following dates.

February 16: MFAT test – 1st opportunity.
February 17: MFAT test – 2nd opportunity.
March 11: Your paper is due.
March 15: Presentations begin @ 4:00
March 15: Senior dinner @ 5:30

Spring Term Registration is Coming!

As a general service announcement: remember that Spring Term Registration begins on **February 8th,** and you are required to participate in at least two before graduating, one of which must be an S-course. Spring Terms are an excellent way of knocking out general education requirements. The courses offered me the chance to travel to Chicago for a week (for Religious Studies credit) and visit the Amazon Rainforest in Ecuador (for Sociology credit); both trips will forever be highlights of my college experience. While it is past time to register for courses that are traveling to other countries, make sure to pay attention to what was offered this year. If you find one that interests you, chances are it will be offered again in two years (if you have any doubts go talk with the professor). In addition to travel courses there are also other classes that stay on Alma's campus. These Spring Terms are excellent for exploring a topic that seems fun or interesting to you. My personal recommendation is to travel somewhere foreign that exposes you to a new culture and gives you an appreciation for the vastness of the world. Safe travels! *Jacob Blazejewski*

Math and C.S. Spring Term Courses

The Department of Math & C.S. will be offering two upper-level courses this spring.

CSC 235 *Computer Game Design* (Dr. Thall)
This course explores the process by which computer games go from conception through formal design to implementation and testing.

MTH 391 *Intro to Graph Theory* (Prof. Sipka)
This course introduces the major concepts and applications of graphs, digraphs, and networks. Application areas will include transportation, games, and puzzles.

Want a Letter of Recommendation?

At this time of the year many students ask professors to write letters of recommendation. If you're planning to do this, here are a few helpful suggestions.

1. Ask professors who know you well academically. They will be most able to identify your strengths and weaknesses, to compare your abilities to those of your peers, and to defend your natural ability despite that low grade you may have received in a course.

2. Make an appointment with each professor to discuss your application. Simply leaving a note or sending an e-mail is a bit impolite and somewhat risky—they may not be read.

3. Provide your professors with a short and informal résumé. This may include a summary of your grades, goals, honors or awards, math related activities (*e.g.* R.E.U.'s), and any relevant work experience.

4. Give your professors ample time to write the letter. I like to have at least *two weeks* to complete the task. And don't forget to provide them the name and address of the person to whom the letter is being sent.

Math Competition on April 9ᵗʰ

The *Lower Michigan Math Competition* will be held on Saturday, **April 9ᵗʰ**, at Hope College. This is a team-oriented competition similar to the MATH Challenge, a competition that we sponsor in the fall term. If you're interested in participating, please see Prof. Sipka.

Need Help?

Math tutors are available to help you with the following courses at the times listed.

MTH 112
MTH 121   Monday through Thursday
MTH 122   7:00 – 10:00 pm in **Dow L2**

MTH 101   Tue.   6:00 – 8:00 pm in **SAC 213**
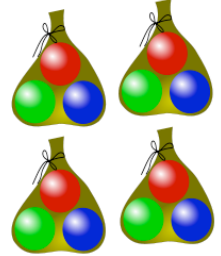Thur. 7:00 – 9:00 pm in **SAC 213**

The Math Club

This term the Math Club will be meeting on **Tuesday evenings** at 9 pm in DOW 132.

Puzzle of the Bi-week

Here's a fun problem I found a few weeks ago in the *Ask Marilyn* column of the Sunday paper:

A host and her three contestants each have a bag with three marbles: one each of red, green, and blue. The host randomly draws a marble first, Justin draws next, then Brody, and then Alexa. The first contestant to draw a color that has already been drawn *wins*. Who has the best chance of winning?

A prize of **$2.00** will be awarded to the 1ˢᵗ student who submits a correct solution to Prof. Sipka.

If you would like to submit an announcement or a short article, please send it via e-mail to Tim Sipka (sipka@alma.edu).