The Almagest

Senior Dinner on Tuesday, March 13th

Our annual dinner for senior mathematics and computer science majors will be held on **Tuesday, March 13th** at 5:30 in the Heather Room. Our dinner has always been a fun event with lots of good food, laughter, and reminiscing. So, please make sure you attend. If you've not yet responded to the invitation sent to you, please contact Jackie Gage (SAC 224) by Friday, March 9th.

Senior Presentations

Senior presentations begin next week with talks on **Tuesday** and **Thursday** at **4:00** in SAC 113.

Tuesday, March 13th

4:00   *Chase Shultz*
   "Platonic Solids: A Mathematical and Scientific Look at Your Average Set of Dungeons and Dragons Dice"

Thursday, March 15th

4:00   *Alex Bieri*
   "Math Plus Run Equals Fun"

4:30   *Kevin Essenmacher*
   "The Mathematics Behind Direct Laser Metal Deposition"

Tuesday, March 20th

4:00   *Rendrall Banford*
   "Global Illumination for Realtime Graphics Applications"

4:30   *Nick Fuller*
   "Mathematical Paradoxes"

Pi Mu Epsilon Gains 10 New Members

Alma College's chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon, a national mathematics honorary, recently added ten new members to its ranks. The new members are **Alexandria Bieri**, **Andrew Borzi**, **Jennifer Davis**, **Brianne Giddis**, **Peter Jonsson**, **Cheyenne Kalfsbeek**, **Marcus Malling**, **Brian May**, **Melissa Gal**, and **Mercedez Thill**. Existing members are: **Kevin Essenmacher**, **Eric Ferrara**, **Naria Ford-Thompson**, **Nicholas Fuller**, and **Chase Schultz.**
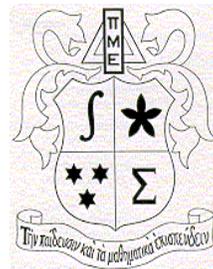
Math Competition – April 7th

The *Lower Michigan Math Competition* will be held on **Saturday**, **April 7th**, at Hillsdale College. This is a team-oriented competition similar to the MATH Challenge that we sponsor in the fall term. If you're interested in participating, please let Prof. Sipka know ASAP

Pi Day

On Wednesday, **March 14th**, the mathematics community will celebrate Pi Day; and to honor that day, here's a small slice of π.

****
3.14159265358979
1640628620899
23172535940
881097566
5432664
09171
036
5

Mathematical Humor

Here are a few definitions you won't find in Webster's dictionary.

A *mathematician* is a blind man in a dark room looking for a black cat that isn't there. (Charles Darwin)

A *statistician* is someone who is good with numbers but lacks the personality to be an accountant.

A *math professor* is one who talks in someone else's sleep.

If you'd like to see some other humorous definitions as well as some mathematical puns, limericks, and jokes, then visit the following website.

www.math.utah.edu/~cherk/mathjokes.html

The Math Club Meets on Thursdays

This term the Math Club will be meeting on **Thursday evenings** at 9 pm in DOW 132. All lovers of mathematics are encouraged to attend. And even if you simply *like* math, your presence is valued.

Solution to Previous Puzzle

Using common mathematical symbols and exactly four fours, it is possible to create arithmetic expressions for every integer from 0 to 100. For example, we can express **68** as

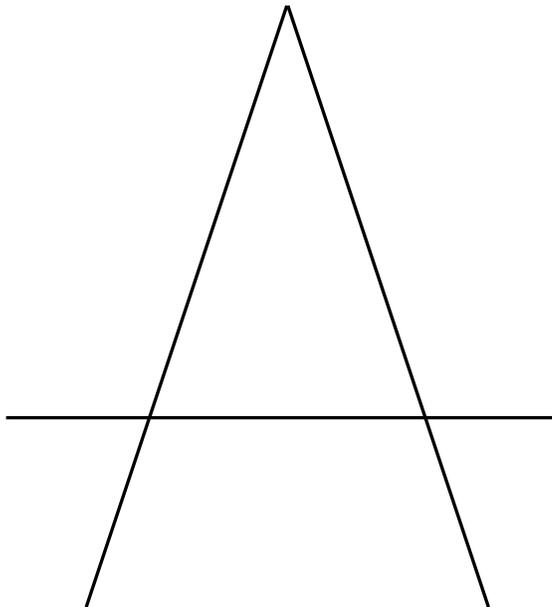$$\frac{4!+4}{.4} - \sqrt{4} \quad \text{OR} \quad \frac{4!}{.4} + 4 \cdot \sqrt{4} \,.$$

Your job is to create similar arithmetic expressions using exactly four fours for the following numbers: **13, 30,** and **33**

Andrew Bach submitted: $13 = \frac{\sqrt{4}}{.4} + 4 \cdot \sqrt{4}$, $30 = 4! - \sqrt{4} + 4 + 4$, and $33 = \frac{\sqrt{4}}{.4} + 4! + 4$

Blake Beyer submitted: $13 = \frac{4!+4!+4}{4}$, $30 = 4 \cdot 4 \cdot \sqrt{4} - \sqrt{4}$, and $33 = 4! + \frac{4-.4}{.4}$

Puzzle of the Bi-week

Can you add two straight lines to the diagram below and produce 10 triangles?

A prize of **$1.00** will be awarded to the 1st student who submits a correct solution to Prof. Sipka.