

The Almagest

The bi-weekly newsletter of the Alma College Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. Your trusted source for news.

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Important Dates for SENIORS

This is the final term for all seniors, and there are several very important dates to circle on your calendars. Here they are:

Feb. 20: Senior papers are due.

March 12: Senior Presentation
4:00 *Ben Elliott*
5:30 Senior dinner
Heather Room



March 14: Senior Presentations
4:00 *Melissa Gal*
4:30 *Peter Jonsson*

March 19: Senior Presentations
4:00 *Bennett DuBois*
4:30 *Jennifer Davis*

March 21: Senior Presentation
4:00 *Chenyu Liu*
4:30 *Eric Ferrara* (Sr. Thesis)

March 26: Senior Thesis Presentation
4:00 *Cheyenne Kalfsbeek*

The Interests/Expertise of the Faculty

If you are a math major or minor, you may be interested at some point in working on a project with some member of the department. Below you'll find a list of the interests and expertise of the math & c.s. faculty. If a topic looks interesting to you, then visit the professor and discuss the possibility of doing a project.

Dr. Zhewei Dai

Applied Mathematics, Inverse Problems, Statistics, and Actuarial Science

Dr. Morgan Fonley

Continuous Mathematical Modeling, Dynamical Systems, and Differential Equations

Dr. Robert Molina

Graph Theory, Discrete Math, and Combinatorics

Dr. Andrew Thall

Numerical Computing, Mersenne Primes, Computer Graphics, Image Analysis, and Game Design

Dr. Brad Westgate

Probability, Statistics, Stochastic Processes, & Data Mining

The Math Club

This term the Math Club will be meeting on **Tuesday 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.



Tutoring for Pre-Calculus & Calculus

Tutoring is available in **SAC 213** for all pre-calculus (MTH 112) and calculus (MTH 121 & 122) students.

Pre-Calculus: *Brianne Elliott* is the tutor.
7:30–9:30 on Tue. and Thur.

Calculus: *Cheyenne Kalfsbeek* is the tutor.
7:00–9:00 on Mon. and Wed.

One Last Bit of Advice

Alma College has been my home for the last three and a half years. In less than three months my time here will come to an end. This chapter of my story will reach its conclusion, and a new one will commence. Before I go, I would like to climb atop my soapbox just once more and offer you a few words of advice.

My first words of parting wisdom are to talk to everyone you come across. This includes professors, peers, and guest speakers. You never know what these folks might be able to teach you. Peers will offer you companionship, and with any luck, help lighten your load on the heaviest of days. Professors have traveled these very roads before you. They made it; it might be worth hearing how they did it. Also, these people have spent a good number of years in academia and their field. That makes them incredible resources for things pertaining to your academic career and beyond. Similarly, guest speakers are also great resources. Often they have been exposed to various sectors of the workforce and can provide some real insight on career paths and internship opportunities. Another plus is that a lot of our guest speakers are alumni. These folks generally love to mentor and speak to those coming after them.

The other thing that I would like to mention is the importance of challenging yourself. Take those upper-level courses. Enroll in a class with that professor you've only heard frightful stories about. Challenge yourself outside of the classroom as well. It is often during our most troubling times that we can learn the most about ourselves. Those times of difficulty and the resulting knowledge are what provide us with a great deal of growth. Yes, your courses provide you with the content that you will need to apply later in life. However, it's the personal growth that you experience which will grant you the skills and persistence necessary to make those applications.

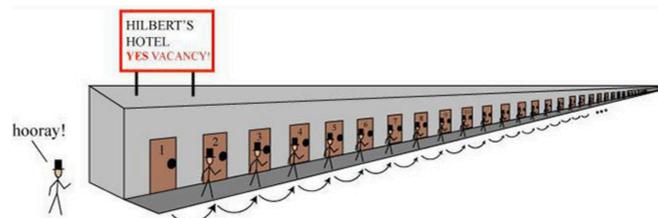
I shall now dismount from my soapbox and with those thoughts I will leave you. It is my hope that you will make the most of your time here. Now excuse me while I go prepare my thesis and ready that cap and gown for that day in April which is growing nearer and nearer. I wish you all the best of luck. *Cheyenne Kalfsbeek*

The Prime 37 is Interesting

The prime number 37 evenly divides the numbers 111, 222, 333, 444, 555, 666, 777, 888, and 999.

Puzzle of the Bi-week

The **Hilbert Hotel** has an *infinite* number of rooms. It's always booked solid, yet there's always a vacancy. Whenever a new guest arrives, the manager shifts the occupant of room 1 to room 2, the occupant of room 2 to room 3, and so on. That frees up room 1 for the newcomer and accommodates everyone as well (though inconveniencing them by the move).



Now suppose *infinitely* many new guests arrive, sweaty and short-tempered. **How can they all be accommodated?**

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

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