

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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September 10, 2018



First Colloquium – Tuesday, September 18th

Our first colloquium of the year will be a presentation by **Dr. Peiru Wu**, Director of the Professional Science Master's (PSM) program in Industrial Mathematics at Michigan State University. The PSM in Industrial Mathematics at M.S.U. has been an innovative and terminal degree program for two decades (1998-2018), which prepares graduates with two-year training in mathematics, statistics, computer science, and cognates, as well as "Science Plus" courses. Our major successes as one of the best-established and long-lasting (PSM Affiliation in 1998) PSM programs include the strong industrial connections and partnerships with local companies and the outstanding graduate placements. The preliminary goal of our program is to produce generalized problem solvers of great versatility, capable of moving within an organization from task to task to continually produce professional workforce. However, in the era of big data, there are new challenges and obligations for PSM programs. Our specific goal is to help students to expose and handle various data from class or real world projects, then to develop basic concepts and knowledge about data mining and machine learning to train not only data analysts but also data scientists. This presentation will talk about various aspects such as experience and outcome based on nearly 100 industrial projects, and how to prepare students with technical and data analytics skills, furthermore, what some of our PSM graduates have to say about the program.

"The Industrial Mathematics Program at M.S.U."

Date: **Tuesday, September 18th**

Time: 4:00

Place: SAC 113

Refreshments at 3:50.

Taco Party – September 17th

All computer science and math students are invited to the annual taco party on **Monday, September 17th** at Dr. Thall's house. This is always a great time of fabulous food, perplexing puzzles, and deep dialogue. The party starts at 5:30 p.m., but feel free to come a bit later if you have a class that meets in the late afternoon (e.g. Kiltie band). Dr. Thall's house is a short walk from campus at **516 Fairlane Dr.** If you need directions, see Mrs. Jackie Gage in SAC 224.



Fall Colloquia Schedule

Make room in your schedule this term for our fall colloquia. The Math & C.S. Dept. has scheduled a series of six interesting talks this term.

Sept. 18: *"The Industrial Math Program at M.S.U."*
Dr. Peiru Wu (Mich. State Univ.)

Oct. 2: *"Data Analytics at the Nielsen Company"*
Mr. Ian Rhynard (Nielsen Company)

Oct. 17 *"Our Summer Internships at Auto-Owners"*
Ben Elliot & Eric Ferrara
(Alma College students)

Oct. 29: *"Rook Placements"*
Dr. Kenneth Barrese (Alma College)

Nov. 15: *"Decision Analysis & Cost-effectiveness Modeling"*
Ms. Stacey Kowal (IQVIA)

Nov. 26: *"Curiosities and Counter-intuitive Notions in Mathematics"*
Prof. Tim Sipka (Alma College)

All talks begin at 4:00 in SAC 113.

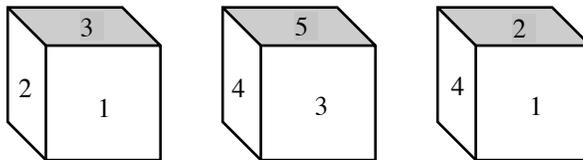
Welcome New Visiting Math Prof

Please extend a warm welcome to **Dr. Kenny Barrese**, a Visiting Mathematics Professor for the 2018-19 school year. Kenny grew up in Oregon, leaving to earn his Ph.D. from Michigan State University. He taught at UC San Diego, briefly becoming Buzzfeed famous for teaching during a flood, before landing in Alma this fall. Professionally, his interests include flipped classrooms and other active learning techniques, as well as research focused in the field of combinatorics. Personally, he is quite interested in philosophy, a subject in which he holds a B.A., science fiction and fantasy novels, and modern strategy games. Warning, he is quite comfortable talking for hours on any of those interests. He is planning a 2019 wedding to his fiancé and is more than a little uncomfortable writing about himself in the third person.



Puzzle of the Bi-week

Three views of the *same* numbered cube are shown below. One number actually occurs twice on the cube. Also, the number that appears twice is *not on the bottom* of any of the views. What number appears twice? Please explain.



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

Student assistant:	Cheyenne Kalfsbeek
Faculty advisor:	Tim Sipka
Distribution:	Jackie Gage SAC 224

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



ALMA COLLEGE

Math Club

The Math Club is back and will be meeting on Tuesday evenings from 9:00 to 9:30 pm in **Dow 132**, beginning on Sept. 11. *Everyone is welcome.*



Where's Maple?

Maple 2016, the computer algebra system used in all sections of calculus, is located in the following labs:



- SAC 212: 17 mac desktops (C.S. lab)
- SAC 117: 16 mac desktops & 20 laptops
- Kapp 160: 3 mac desktops & 10 laptops
- Kapp 151: 8 mac desktops (P-Chem lab)
- Library: 11 pc desktops in *Olofsson* room
10 pc desktops in basement lab