The Almagest Begins 5th Year

Welcome to the new school year and another volume of our department's bi-weekly newsletter—*The Almagest*. This tiny tabloid of tantalizing tidbits will keep you informed of many events that should be of interest to members of the mathematics and computer science community. We'll provide information and announcements about social events, internships, scholarships, visiting speakers, grad schools, job opportunities, summer research opportunities, conferences, math competitions, programming contests, interesting websites, perplexing problems and puzzles, and a variety of other newsworthy items. Occasionally we'll simply include something just because we find it humorous. *Become a regular reader*.

Fall Colloquia

Make room in your schedule this term for our fall colloquia (a fancy name for a collection of presentations). The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science has scheduled a series of six interesting talks this term, four occurring on Monday afternoons, one on a Tuesday afternoon, and one on a Thursday afternoon.

Sept. 24:   "Our Summer REU at MSU"
        Alex Hegedus & Kirstyn Baker

Oct. 8:   "Mathematics and Kinesiology"
        Alex Montoye, M.S.U.

Oct. 25:   "Do Dogs Know Calculus?"
        Dr. Tim Pennings, Hope College

Nov. 6:   "Golden Flowers: A Spiral Story"
        Dr. Matt Boelkins, GVSU

Nov. 19: "Relativity"   **Dr. Steuard Jensen**

Dec. 3:   "Lights Out"   **Dr. Robert Molina**

Taco Party

All computer science and mathematics students are invited to the annual taco party on **Tuesday, September 18th** at Dr. Molina'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. Dr. Molina's house is a short walk from campus at **520 Woodworth Ave**. If you need directions, see Mrs. Smith in SAC 224.

First Colloquium of the Year

Our first colloquium of the year will be a presentation by two students who spent part of their summer doing research in mathematics. **Kirstyn Baker** and **Alex Hegedus** spent all of June and part of July participating in a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) at Michigan State University. Kirstyn and Alex will talk about their projects and provide you with a wealth of information about their experiences. You'll walk away knowing a lot about the program at M.S.U. and something about R.E.U.'s in general. Please come and learn more about this great opportunity to spend 7 or 8 weeks of the summer working (you'll make approximately $2500) on some interesting project in mathematics or computer science.

"Our Summer REU at MSU"

Presenters: **Alex Hegedus & Kirstyn Baker**
   Date: Monday, September 24th
   Time: 4:00
   Place: SAC 109

Refreshments at 3:50.

Emily Noble Gets MCTM Scholarship

Take a moment to congratulate **Emily Noble**, a junior math major, on receiving the 2012 *Miriam Schaefer Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics* (MCTM) *Scholarship*. Emily was one of three students from our state to receive the award. Congratulations Emily!

Welcome New Math Person

We are happy to have **Megan Gibson** teaching for us this year. Megan will be teaching both fall and winter terms as she finishes her PhD in math education from Columbia University.

Important Meeting For Seniors

All senior mathematics and computer science majors are required to attend a meeting on **Tuesday, October 23rd** at 4:00 in SAC 216. At this meeting we'll provide details about the written and oral components of the senior presentations. Please put this important meeting on your calendar.

The Math Club is Back

The Math Club had its first meeting on Thursday, September 13th. The group discussed a variety of topics and made plans for the year. The Math Club will meet **EVERY THURSDAY at 10 pm** in the Wright Hall lobby. Everyone is invited. The officers for the Math Club are:
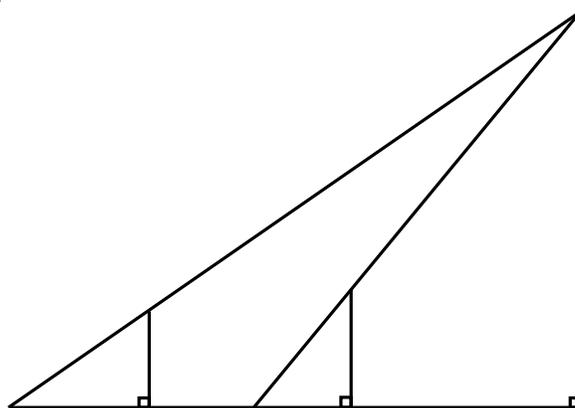
President	**Caitlin Closs**
Vice President	**Phil Ryskamp**
Treasurer	**LeeAnne Carr**
Secretary	**Katie Dwenger**

Thinking about Graduate School?

If you're a senior who's thinking about going to graduate school, then you should make plans to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) during the fall term. You'll need to take the *general test* as well as the *subject test* in the area you plan to study. The next date for the subject area tests is Saturday, **November 10th.** You must register for this test by October 5th. For more information, please visit the GRE website at: www.ets.org/gre/.

Puzzle of the Bi-week

Find x, the length of the leg of the right triangle.

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

Student assistant:	Jonathan Young
Faculty advisor:	Tim Sipka
Distribution:	Deb Smith

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