

The Almagest

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

Volume 4, No. 1

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Alma College
Alma, MI 48801

The Almagest Begins 4th 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 hope you'll look here for information and announcements for social events, visiting speakers, internships, 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, five occurring on Monday afternoons and one occurring on a Tuesday afternoon. The first talk will be on Monday, **September 19th**. *Plan on attending!*

Attention Majors and Minors

As you plan your schedule down the road please be aware that **Math 341** (Probability & Statistics I) will now be offered EVERY FALL term. **Math 342** (Probability & Statistics II) will continue to be offered only in the winter term of odd years.

First Colloquium of the year

Our first colloquium of the year will feature three short presentations from students who spent this past summer participating in a research experience for undergraduates (REU). The trio will talk about their projects and provide us with a wealth of information about their experiences. Indeed, you will walk away from the talk knowing everything there is to know about REU's. 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.

“Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About R.E.U.'s”

Presenters: **Robert Bixler, Chad Stripling, & Chris Welcher**

Date: Monday, September 19th

Time: 4:00

Place: SAC 216

Refreshments at 3:50.

Taco Party

All computer science and mathematics students are invited to the annual taco party on **Tuesday, September 20th** 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. Dr. Thall's house is a short walk from campus at **516 Fairlane Dr.** If you need directions, see Mrs. Smith in SAC 224.



Math Club: Anyone Interested?

Senior math majors **Amy Baranowski** and **Ian Rhynard** are interested in starting a math club, and they'd like to know who else would be interested in supporting this noble cause. If $\varepsilon =$ your level of interest in supporting a math club and $\varepsilon > 0$, then please contact either Amy or Ian.

Student Assistant Needed

If you like to write and you have a few extra hours in your schedule, then you might consider being the student assistant for the *Almagest*. The job would consist of writing a few blurbs for each issue. The pay is **\$8 an hour**.



Please see Professor Sipka (SAC 252).

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 **November 12th**. You must register for this test by October 7th. For more information, please visit the GRE website at: www.ets.org/gre/.

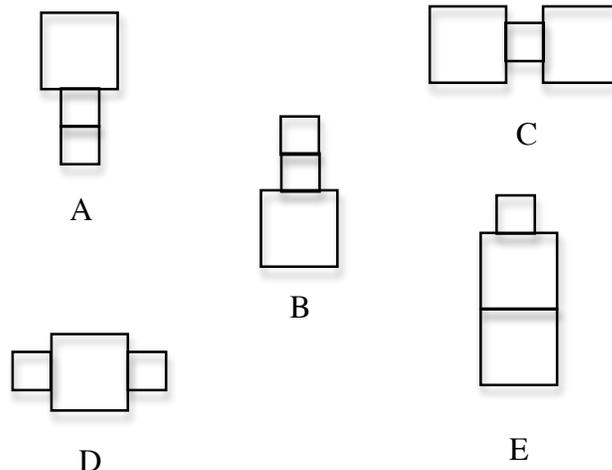
Get Involved!

As you start a new academic year, take advantage of the many experiences available to you:

- ✓ Attend colloquia
- ✓ Attend social events (*e.g.*, taco party)
- ✓ Be a member of the math team
- ✓ Be a member of the programming team
- ✓ Be a grader, tutor, or lab assistant
- ✓ Go to a conference for undergraduates
- ✓ Go to a national conference
- ✓ Apply for a summer research experience for undergraduates
- ✓ Present a poster or give a talk
- ✓ Join a national organization (*e.g.*, PME, ACM)
- ✓ Study mathematics abroad

Puzzle of the Bi-week

Which of the following designs is the odd one out?



A small prize will be awarded to the **FIRST** student who provides a correct solution. See Prof. Sipka.

Student assistant:	Your name
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).