

The Almagest

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

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Alma College
Alma, MI 48801

Seniors On The Move

In a few short weeks our seniors will be moving on to the next chapters of their lives, and we thought you'd like to know a little bit about their plans.

Brad Bockrath is pursuing a job in the Lansing area as a financial analyst and is hoping to land a job with Edward Jones. Wedding bells will also be ringing for Brad in May of 2010.

Reid Cuddy will be attending graduate school (somewhere in Michigan) to study mechanical engineering. He's been accepted at Michigan State, but he's waiting to hear from several other schools before making his final decision.

Ben Kosal is applying for a high school teaching position in the southwest part of the state. If that doesn't work out, he'll look for a teaching job in North Carolina.

James Kruse is headed to the University of Michigan where he'll work on a master's degree in Energy Systems Engineering.

Cody Moore will be looking for a high school teaching position in the west Michigan area.

Adam Sypniewski will pursue a Ph.D. in physics at the University of Michigan. Adam is very interested in high-energy experimental physics, but he's not sure if that will be his eventual area of study.

Christine Wheatley is heading south to Ball State University where she'll pursue a master's degree in Information and Communication Science.

The faculty in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science wish you well.

Juniors Off To R.E.U.'s

Congratulations are in order for the following juniors who will be heading off to exotic places to participate in summer R.E.U.'s:

Alex Montoye has accepted an invitation to participate in an R.E.U. in mathematics at Oregon State University.

Cody Stripling will be spending seven weeks at Cornell University doing an R.E.U. at the Cornell Center for Materials Research. He'll be working on a project to develop new experimental apparatus and data reduction methodologies.

Lacey Best-Rowden will be heading to California to participate in an R.E.U. in computer science at the Humboldt State University. She'll be studying parallel computing for fusion energy control.

Taking a Summer Course?

If you're thinking about taking a mathematics or computer science course this summer, then be sure to complete the *Approval Form for Transfer of Credit* before leaving campus. To guarantee that the course you'll be taking back home will transfer back to Alma, you'll need Dr. Molina's signature. Don't wait to the last minute to take care of things.

Poster Session for Math 223 - April 17th

You are invited to the Math 223 poster session held on **Friday, April 17th**, from 2 to 4 on the second floor of SAC. The students have investigated a variety of famous theorems/problems in mathematics and will be displaying their work on posters. Come and see their work and enjoy some refreshments.

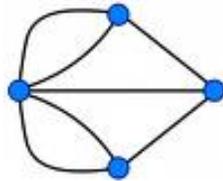
Born around this date

Leonhard Euler (1707-1783) was born on the 15th of April in Basel, Switzerland. He made multiple contributions to mathematics and physics, including analytic geometry, trigonometry,



geometry, calculus, and number theory. Euler (pronounced Oy-ler) was also a key contributor to the field of graph theory. He is responsible for the notions of an **Eulerian path** and an **Eulerian circuit**. Out of respect for Euler, mathematicians have defined an **Eulerian**

path to be a path that visits each edge exactly once. Similarly, an **Eulerian circuit** is an **Eulerian path** that starts and ends at the same vertex. He solved the famous Königsberg problem by proving that there existed no **Eulerian circuit** in the graph that represented the seven bridges. He proved that an **Eulerian Circuit** exists if and only if every vertex has an even number of edges adjacent to it. Leonhard Euler accomplished much more than solving the Königsberg problem. He was a founding father of modern mathematics and introduced much of the terminology and notation used today, including e , Σ as a summation, and the $f(x)$ notation used for functions.



Math Teacher Scholarship

The Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics (MCTM) is offering a \$1500 scholarship to *secondary math majors* and *elementary math minors*. You must have junior or senior status in the Fall of 2009, and you must have a G.P.A. of at least 3.0. Applications are due by **May 15, 2009**. Applications and Scholarship Guidelines are available on the MCTM website www.mictm.org or in the Education Department bay. Contact Ruth Farrier (SAC 237) for more information. farrier@alma.edu

Puzzle of the Bi-week

Last summer Dr. McNally biked to one of his favorite destinations in Michigan. He got up early one morning and was able to make it to his destination at an average speed of 20 m.p.h. Later that day he returned home (over the same route) riding into a stiff headwind. As a result, he averaged only 10 m.p.h. on the return trip.



What was his *average speed for the round trip*?
It's not 15 m.p.h.

Look for the Almagest Next Fall

This is the final issue of our newsletter for the academic year. We hope you have enjoyed reading the *Almagest* and have found it to be your trusted source for departmental news. Look for us next September!

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If you would like to submit an announcement or a short article, please send it via e-mail to Matt Mansell (11mgmans) or Tim Sipka (sipka).