

The Almagest

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

Volume 2, No. 1

September 14, 2009

Alma College
Alma, MI 48801

The Almagest, Volume 2

Welcome to the new school year and another volume of our department's bi-weekly newsletter—*The Almagest*. You hold in your hands a window that sheds light on topics of interest to members of the mathematics and computer science community. We hope you'll look here for information and announcements for up-coming social events, visiting speakers, internships, grad school and career information, opportunities for doing research or attending conferences, interesting websites, perplexing problems and puzzles, and a variety of other newsworthy items.

Fall Colloquia on Monday Afternoons

Please make room in your schedule this term for our fall colloquia. We've scheduled a series of talks this term—all on **Mondays at 3:35**—that focus on careers for math majors. The first talk will be **September 21st**.

Welcome Back REU Participants

Five Alma College students spent part of their summer vacation at various universities doing research in mathematics and computer science.

Alex Montoye (Oregon State), **Cody Stripling** (Cornell University), **Charlie Cook** (George Mason University), **Lacey Best-Rowden** (Humboldt State University), and **Mitch Loudenbeck** (University of Wisconsin—Oshkosh) participated in summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU's) for seven weeks this summer. Take time to ask them about their experiences; I'm sure they'd enjoy talking to you.

First Colloquium of the year

Do you enjoy studying mathematics but aren't sure what you can do with a major in math? If this describes you, then you'll not want to miss the first colloquium of the year. Please plan on attending Professor Tim Sipka's talk on career opportunities for math majors on **Monday, September 21st**.

"What Can I Do With A Major In Mathematics?"

Presenter: Professor Tim Sipka

Date: Monday, September 21st

Time: 3:35

Place: SAC 216

Refreshments at 3:30.

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 dates for the subject area tests are **October 10th** and **November 7th**. For more information, please visit the GRE website at: www.ets.org/gre/.

New Face

We are very happy to welcome Professor **Kim Jensen** to the department this fall. Professor Jensen will be teaching three courses—two sections of Math 099 and one section of Math 101.

C.S. Internship Opportunity

Attention computer science students! A local company in Alma, *Traffic Management Services*, would like to provide an unpaid internship to one or two of our majors. The job would be primarily a programming position. If this sounds interesting to you, please see Professor Sipka for more details.

Problem Solving & Pizza

Do you like working on interesting math problems? Do you enjoy working with other students as you tackle those interesting problems? Do you like pizza? If you answered yes to at least two of these questions, then you are a prime candidate for our *Pizza and Problems* group. The meeting time for the group has not yet been determined, but it will probably be on Tuesday or Thursday afternoon. If you think you'd like to join this group, please let Professor Sipka know.

Study Mathematics Abroad

Would you like to add some adventure to your study of mathematics? Are you longing for an off campus experience in some exotic place in the world? Then consider spending next fall in Hungary.

The Budapest Semester in Mathematics is a wonderful opportunity to study math with eminent Hungarian scholar-teachers. You'll attend school near the center of historic Budapest, and all classes will be taught in English. For more information visit www.stolaf.edu/depts/math/budapest.

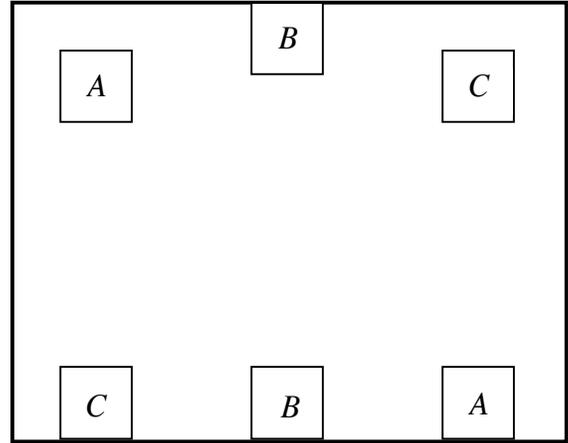
Just for fun

Can you translate the following mathematical expression into English?

$$f(g(\text{hung}))$$

Puzzle of the Bi-week

Consider the following diagram. Can you connect each small box on the top with its same-letter mate on the bottom with paths (lines) that DO NOT cross or leave the boundaries of the large box?



Student assistant:	Matt Mansell
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 Matt Mansell (11mgmans) or Tim Sipka (sipka).