

# 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

## Monday's Math Colloquium

Our first colloquium of the year will be a presentation by two of our majors, **Katie Krauss** and **Jason McKelvey**, who spent part of their summer doing research in mathematics. They will talk about their individual projects and provide you with a wealth of information about their experiences.

### *"Our Summer Research Experiences"*

Presenters: **Katie Krauss & Jason McKelvey**  
Date: **Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Time: 4:00  
Place: SAC 113

**Refreshments at 3:50.**

## 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. 22: "Our Summer Research Experiences"  
**Katie Krauss & Jason McKelvey**
- Oct. 8: "Operations Research/Advanced Analytics"  
**Dr. Andrew Ross** (Eastern Mich. Univ.)
- Oct. 20: "Mathematics and Actuarial Science"  
**Megan Foster** (Towers Watson)
- Nov. 4: "A Voting Theory Approach to Golf Scoring"  
**Dr. Mike Jones** (*Mathematical Reviews*)
- Nov. 17: Information and Communication Sciences  
**Dr. Steve Jones** (Ball State University)
- Dec. 3: Computer Science  
**Lacey Best-Rowden** (Mich. State Univ.)

**All talks begin at 4:00 in SAC 113.**

## Welcome New Visiting Math Prof

Please extend a warm welcome to **Dr. Adam Giambrone**.

**Adam** joins Alma College as a visiting assistant professor of mathematics for the 2014-2015 school year. He received his B.S. in mathematics and physics from Hobart College, a small liberal arts college in Upstate New York, and recently received his Ph.D. in mathematics



from Michigan State University. His mathematical interests include the connections among graph theory, knot theory, and 3-manifold topology. His scholarly interests include the teaching and learning of undergraduates in mathematics and the conducting of undergraduate research in mathematics. Outside of the classroom, Adam's hobbies include Netflix and guitar.

## Taco Party

All computer science and mathematics students are invited to the annual taco party on **Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>** 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.



## Meet the Almagest Student Contributor

Hello! I'm Katie Krauss, the student contributor to the Almagest. Here is a little bit about me. I'm a senior, majoring in Math and Secondary Education, with a minor in German.

**Why Math:** I always enjoyed mathematics in school; I loved the regularity and logic of it and, likely contributing to my liking of it, I was always good at math. That was enough to set me on my path of studying math, but my college courses revealed the beauty of math that truly inspired my love of the subject. To me, the sense of accomplishment that comes with finding a solution after navigating a sea of algebraic manipulations and the sense of awe after neatly tying up an elegant proof are two of the greatest feelings.

**Favorite Math Class:** My favorite is usually whichever class I am currently taking, though the MTH 223 (Math Structures) poster project was one of my favorite assignments from a math class.

**Latest Adventures in Math:** This summer I had the opportunity to conduct math education research at Illinois State University, an amazing and highly recommended experience. Now, I am sharing my enthusiasm for math with my Pre-Calculus and AP Calculus classes at Mt. Pleasant High School as I student teach.

**Plans After Graduation:** I hope to continue to share my love of math with high school students and, hopefully, inspire in them an appreciation of math's beauty. *Katie Krauss*

## Where's Maple?

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

SAC 212: 17 mac desktops

Kapp 160: 3 mac desktops & 12 laptops

SAC 117: 16 mac desktops & 20 laptops



## The Math Club is Back

The Math Club had its first meeting of the term on Wednesday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 in Dow 132. Like last year, the group plans to have two regular meetings each month: one fun meeting and one homework meeting. If you have any questions, see **Jacob Blazejewski** (President) or **Christine Wiersma** (Secretary). *Everyone is invited.*

## Career Day at Auto-Owners

Auto-Owners Insurance is hosting a career day on **Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>**. This event will show I.T. and actuarial students how their degrees can be used in the insurance industry. This year's event will be held from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm at the Home Office, 6101 Anacapri Blvd., Lansing. If you're interested, see **Dr. Dai**.

## Puzzle of the Bi-week

I'm thinking of five distinct integers:  $a < b < c < d < e$ . When I sum all possible pairs of these numbers, I get the values:

2,3,6,7,9,10,11,13,14,17.

*What are the original numbers?*

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

Student assistant:	Katie Krauss
Faculty advisor:	Tim Sipka
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*If you would like to submit an announcement or a short article, please send it via e-mail to Tim Sipka (sipka@alma.edu).*