

The Almagest

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

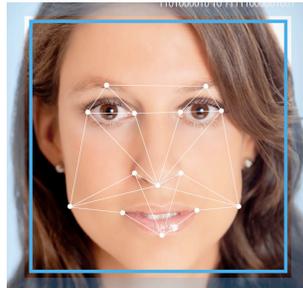
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Alma College
Alma, MI 48801

Math & C.S. Colloquium - January 28th

Current state-of-the-art face recognition systems are capable of matching face images captured in controlled scenarios (frontal facing, neutral expression, uniform lighting, etc.) with impressively high accuracy. Hence, automatic face recognition is not just a futuristic technology seen in television dramas; it has now been successfully deployed for many real-world applications including de-duplication of identity documents, user authentication on mobile devices, and border control at airports. However, recent tragic events such as the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings have drawn attention to the potential for face recognition to aid in identification of persons for other important security applications. With the increasing ubiquity of surveillance imaging devices, these emerging applications aim to operate on face images acquired in less than ideal conditions (non-frontal, low resolution, poor lighting, etc.). **Lacey Best-Rowden**, a 2010 Alma College alumna, will provide an overview of the progress in face recognition and highlight current challenges, particularly with respect to law enforcement and intelligence applications.



Automatic Face Recognition: Applications and Challenges

Presenter: **Lacey Best-Rowden**
Date: **Wednesday, January 28th**
Time: **4:00**
Place: **SAC 113**

Refreshments at 3:50.

Important Dates for Seniors

Attention all seniors! Please be aware of the following dates.

- January 23:** Topic of your presentation is due.
- February 10:** MFAT test – 1st opportunity.
- February 11:** MFAT test – 2nd opportunity.
- March 6:** Your paper is due.
- March 17:** Presentations begin @ 4:00
- March 17:** Senior dinner @ 5:30

Major Field Achievement Test (MFAT)

All math and computer science majors are required to take the MFAT in their respective areas. The exams, created by Educational Testing Service, provide students with a measure of their level of achievement within their field of study compared to students (majoring in that same area) from other colleges and universities. In addition, academic departments use the MFAT to evaluate their curricula and to measure the progress of their students. The exams will be given (on campus) on **February 10th** and **11th**. Please see **Sheila Boyer** in the CSO office to register for the exam. The fee for the exam will be paid by the Department of Math & C.S. To find out more about the MFAT, visit the website www.ets.org/mft.

Want a Letter of Recommendation?

At this time of the year many students ask professors to write letters of recommendation. If you're planning to do this, here are a few helpful suggestions.