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Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science
St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057

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This Week's Colloquium

Title: **Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases: Hot Topics and Examples from the Minnesota Department of Health.**

Presenter: Richard Danila

Date: Tuesday, February 24th

Time: 1:30 pm

Location: SC 188

About the talk: Richard Danila, from the Minnesota Department of Health will be joining us on Tuesday to give a colloquium illustrating the use of epidemiology to study infectious diseases, and to provide factors leading to emerging infectious diseases as investigated by the Minnesota Department of Health. Several St. Olaf grads have gone on to work in epidemiology—eight St. Olaf alumni with Master's degrees are currently working at the Department of Health as epidemiologists.

Problem Solvers!

For those interested in problem solving during the spring, the St. Olaf problem solving group will be meeting **on Mondays, from 4:30-5:30.**

Konhauser Competition

Upcoming on **Saturday, February 28** is the Konhauser problem-solving competition.

Registration (with refreshments) is from 8:30--8:45 a.m. Contestants work in groups of (at most) three. After the instructions are announced (8:45--8:55 a.m.), the competition will begin (9:00--12:00 noon). The contest will then be graded (12:00--1:40 p.m.) while the contestants eat lunch. Finally, the results will be announced and the prizes will be distributed (1:45--2:15 p.m.).

Summer Opportunities

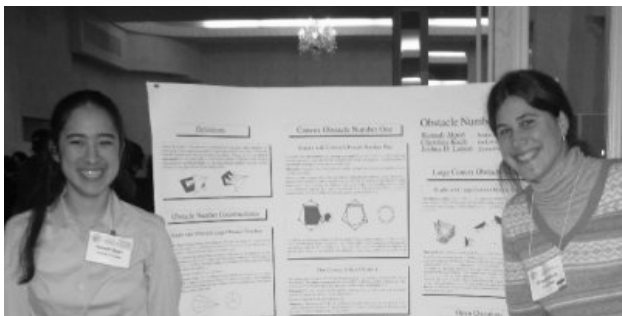
For those still looking for summer jobs, there are many options for students interested in mathematics. Both the Mathematical Association of America and the American Mathematical Society have web pages with information about various summer opportunities for mathematicians, including research, summer classes and internships. Go to <http://www.maa.org/students/undergrad/> and scroll down to Summer Programs for information on many types of programs or head to <http://www.ams.org/employment/reu.html> for information about research opportunities funded by the NSF.

Mathematics as a Career

There is now evidence towards what we knew all along—being a mathematician is an awesome job! While it may not feel like it as a student amidst problem sets, exams and long proof-filled lectures, this year's JobsRated.com report ranks mathematician as the country's best job, followed by actuary and statistician, out of 200 different positions. See http://www.careercast.com/jobs/content/JobsRated_10BestJobs for the full article.

Joint Math Meetings

During interim, several math department faculty and students headed to Washington D.C. for the Joint Math Meetings of the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America. The Joint Math Meetings are a gathering of all kinds of mathematicians (professors, students, researchers, enthusiasts) and feature all things mathematical, from a math “bazaar” with books stalls and math curios, to lectures and talks, to panels and poster sessions.



(Hannah Alpert and Christina Koch, with their prize-winning poster on “Obstacle Numbers of Graphs.”)



(Charlie receiving his prize.)

One feature of the meetings is the undergraduate research poster session, one of the largest mathematical poster sessions in the country. St. Olaf had several students represented, **including Nathan Clement, Philip Gipson, Christina Koch, Thomas McConville, and Charlie McEachern.**

Charlie and Christina each won prizes for their respective posters. Charlie was displaying the results of research on topologies, done in Poland as part of a summer research exchange between St. Olaf and the university in Lodz. Christina was presenting research done at the Willamette Valley Consortium REU. *Congratulations to Charlie and Christina!* For a list of all winners, go to:

www.maa.org/students/undergrad/pastwinners.html

Next week, expect to hear more news from the Joint Math Meetings, including a reunion of Budapest Semesters in Mathematics alumni.

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If you would like to submit an article or math event to be published in the Math Mess, e-mail kochc@stolaf.edu.