

MSCS Mess

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Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science

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St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057

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MSCS and Friends Tailgate Party

Title: MSCS and Friends Tailgate Party
Speakers: MSCS Baseball Experts
Date: Thursday, October 13th
Time: 4:30pm with dinner at 5:30 pm
Location: RNS 150

Come experience a bit of a variety of perspectives on Baseball! Watch the so-called experts do their thing in the face of the reality of the game. Could be mighty entertaining!!!

We'll have four 10 minute innings of entertainment interrupted by three short innings in which Cracker Jack and very cool softball apparel is given away. At 5:30 sharp we'll serve hot off the grill brats and dogs with all the trimmings! Can you afford to miss this? I THINK NOT! RSVP's requested by Monday, October 10th, but all are still invited! RSVP to brakke@stolaf.edu



Problem of the Week

No solutions have arrived for last week's problem, and it may be because of an error that your Mess editor let slip by (oops). Here's the problem corrected:

Photo Finish

Imagine four runners on a racecourse. A demon, watching from on high, can "freeze" **any one** runner for any amount of time, and can shift attention from one runner to another instantaneously. These four runners take times

$$0 < T_1 < T_2 < T_3 < T_4 = 1$$

to complete the course if *undelayed* by the demon. Under what conditions on T_1 , T_2 , and T_3 can the demon cause all runners to finish together at time 1? Note that the demon cannot delay runner 4 at all.

E-mail solutions to Paul Zorn (zorn@stolaf.edu)

Mathematics Graduate School Information Night

Are you planning to pursue graduate study in mathematics? Are you already interested in exploring the possibility of going to graduate school? Do you have no idea whatsoever about what you'd like to do after (eventually) graduating, but you want to learn about what options exist? Are you just plain bored, and

have nothing to do on Wednesday nights? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you should come to the mathematics graduate school information night next Wednesday.

A panel of former St. Olaf students who have gone on to graduate study in mathematics will discuss their experiences and be available to answer questions. Topics of discussion will likely include: choosing where to apply, managing the application process (and hopefully maximizing your admission success), graduate student work and life, career options after graduate school, and how to start preparing for graduate school (classes to take, activities to do, etc.).

We will meet Wednesday, October 12, in RNS 208. Pizza will arrive at 7:15, and the panel discussion will start at 7:30. We hope to see you there.

Stats/Biostats Grad School Panel

Date: Monday, October 10th

Time: 6-7 PM

Where: Regents Hall 207 (the CIR room)

What: Three Ole alum who are currently in graduate programs in statistics or biostatistics will participate in a panel discussion. They will provide insights and answer questions such as: what is graduate school like? how does one choose a program? how does St. Olaf prepare you? what can one do with an advanced stats degree? and, is it true they really pay you to go to grad school?

Panelists:

Alyssa Frazee '10 (Johns Hopkins biostats)

Lauren Kunz '08 (Harvard biostats)

Michael Soma '07 (Minnesota stats)

Introducing Professor Vandiver

Becky was born and raised in Ottumwa, Iowa and she is happy to be back in the Midwest! She received her B.S. in Mathematics from The College of William and Mary and her Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from the University of Arizona. She spent two years at Bryn Mawr College as a postdoc funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. She has a broad interest at the interface of mathematics, biology, and mechanics. She also has a great passion for the development of curriculum and programs in mathematical biology. Becky has two young daughters, Regan and Kailey, who keep her busy when she's not on campus. She also enjoys tennis, golf, biking and playing the piano.

Tea Time

Have you ever wanted to drink tea and crumpets (just kidding, cookies) with other MSCS enthusiasts? Now's your chance! The Math Department, with the help of our very own Josh Wilson, is offering tea and cookies on Monday, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 3:10 to 3:40 pm. Come join other enthusiasts to play games, talk about MSCS, and make new friends!

Editor-in-Chief:	Josh Jacobson
Faculty Advisor:	Peter Blanchard
Mess Czar:	Donna Brakke

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