

The Sum Times

Vol 5. No. 7 The Society of Undergraduate Mathematicians March 1997

- delaware

On March 13, Dr. Peter Monk from the University of Delaware came to speak about the graduate program offered at the University of Delaware. There are three tracks offered in this program: pure, applied, and co-op applied mathematics. He spoke mainly on the co-op program. This program gives the students the best of both worlds. This opportunity allows the students to gain work experience within an academic program. The projects in this program cover a wide range of topics. For more information you can look at the web page located at <http://www.math.udel.edu>.

- thanks

We would like to thank the professors and the students (a total of 11 people) who met in Mendel 162 on the afternoon of March 11 to talk about the classes for next fall. Each student left with a clearer picture of what their classes would be like next semester, just in time for registration.

- sas workshop

Dr. Short held a second SAS workshop on Friday, March 14. This workshop provided students the opportunity to explore SAS programming through regression analysis. This gave all who attended the chance to experiment with SAS syntax in the context of a real-life data set. For further information visit the web page located at <http://renoir.vill.edu/~short/SAS/>.

- what's happening??

Each month there are problems posted up on the bulletin board in front of the math department office. Feel free to submit answers to these problems.....

T-shirt time is here again. We are looking for a design for this year's t-shirts. Remember this is your t-shirt so make something that you would want to wear. If you have any suggestions leave a note in the SUM mailbox in SAC 305.

There will be a meeting, April 10 at 4:30 in Mendel 162, for those of you who are interested in helping with the Bigs & Littles program. If you can not attend please contact Cathy O'Bryant at X 13443. We need everyone's help for this program to be successful....Wouldn't you want somewhere to turn!

This is the time of year for the inductions into the various honor societies on campus. Many of the invitations for campus honor societies were extended in these past few weeks. You might not know it but there is an honor society for every major and college.

Here are some that might interest you:

Pi Mu Epsilon: The honor society for math majors, minors, or anyone else with a strong showing in math courses.

The students who will be inducted into Pi Mu Epsilon this year are: Damian Caputo, Leah Dorazio, Gintaras Duda, Amy Eshleman, Cathy O'Bryant, and Joann Voltaggio.

Phi Kappa Phi: Is an honor society for the entire university.

Kappa Delta Phi: Honor society for those of us who are Education majors or even Education minors.

Phi Beta Kappa: The honor society for the college of Arts and Sciences.

Most honor societies extend invitations, but an honor that is completely under our control is departmental honors. For more information, stop by the Math Office, SAC 305.

- interview with steve chiacchiere

You all know where Dr. Ashley's office is, well this guy lives across the hall from him. So, on those days where you flocked to his office you probably passed Mr. Chiacchiere. He was born and raised in Havertown, but now lives in Drexel Hill. In talking to him, it is easy to see that his family is a big part of his life. Throughout the years, they still gather to celebrate family occasions such as anniversaries and birthdays. He went to Penn State for his undergraduate career and survived a double major in mathematics and computer science. He continued his education by attending graduate school here at Villanova. Analysis, ranging from real to complex, is his favorite area of math. His career in teaching started in 1987 as a graduate student when he taught his first section of calculus. From this moment on he loved teaching and decided to continue his life in this direction. He now teaches Theory of Interest and Statistics for experimentors.

This was actually one of the hardest interviews because he refused to answer most of my questions. But here are the answers he did give....

Question: Pick three words that describe you.

Answer: After much thought, silly, teacher, and dog-lover.

Question: Who is your favorite cartoon character?

Answer: Daffy Duck(he said in a funny accent!!)

Question: What is your favorite childhood memory?

Answer: (This actually started our conflict because he said that he could not rank his childhood and that everyone would read too much into his answer. Yes, he is a little paranoid. But, after a nice chat he told me about many of his memories of his childhood.) Many of these memories included school and family trips to different places around the U.S.

Question: If you were exiled to a deserted island what three things would you bring? Why?

Answer: Buddy, Jean-Luc, and Simba (His three pets). The reason why is because I would be too worried about them if they were not there with me.

Question: What interesting hobby do you have?

Answer: Collecting things. My collection ranges from coins and stamps to Star Trek collectibles. (The Academy Awards are also big part in his life, since he has every movie that has won best picture.)

Question: Who is your favorite actor and actress?

Answer: Actress is easy Jane Fonda. Actors are harder but my favorite actor roles are Clark Gable in Gone with the Wind and Marlo Brando in Godfather. I also like Woody Allen movies.

Question: What is your favorite meal? (To cook and to eat)

Answer: To cook: anything that involves crabs. To eat: seafood or anything that is spicy and hot.

Question: Who is your hero? Why?

Answer: Mary Hartman because she is basically insane because she is so sane. She notices every little detail and can see the truth in situations.

Question: What motto do you live your life by?

Answer: DON'T EVER COMPLETELY GROW UP!!!!

Question: What advice do you have for the math majors?

Answer: Well, they hear everything else from other people, so I would say consider a career in the field actuarial science.

- jobs

The National Security Agency is currently hiring qualified mathematicians, who would use their mathematical skills in both research and applied work. If you have any questions about the application process or opportunities for mathematicians at NSA, please call the chairman of the NSA Math Hiring Committee, Will Scott, at (301) 688-0944, or email him at wscott@afterlife.ncsc.mil. All applications/resumes for employment should be sent to:

The National Security Agency
Attn: S23 (Math)
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6000

- how about some math in this newsletter??

Here are some problems from previous Putnam Exams.

1975 A-2

For which ordered pairs of real numbers b and c , do both roots of the quadratic equation

$$z^2 + bz + c = 0$$

lie inside the unit disk $\{|z| < 1\}$ in the complex plane?

Draw a reasonably accurate picture of the region in the real bc -plane for which the above condition holds. Identify precisely the boundary curves of this region.

1977 A-3

Let u , f , and g be functions, defined for all real numbers x , such that

$$\frac{u(x+1) + u(x-1)}{2} = f(x) \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{u(x+4) + u(x-4)}{2} = g(x).$$

└ Determine $u(x)$ in terms of f and g .