



# The Villanova Sum Times

April 2009 Issue

*Villanova University Department of Mathematical Sciences*

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## Villanova Math Club Updates:

We hope everyone is having a great semester so far, especially with our Villanova Wildcats making it all the way to the Final Four!

The Villanova Math Club has been working hard to host another Math Career Night for this semester. It will be held on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm in CEER 001 (see advertisement). We have several guest speakers, all of whom are Villanova math major graduates and have very different and exciting careers. Some of those careers include work with teaching, insurance, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Mathematica, the National Security Agency (NSA), Goldman Sachs, and Morgan Stanley. We hope you can make it!

As always, we welcome and encourage any interested students to attend our meetings. This semester, we meet on Thursdays at 5:30 in the Math Learning and Resource Center (MLRC). If you are unable to make our meetings but would like to be kept up-to-date on what we are doing, you are welcome to join our mailing list. Contact Jen Patch at [jennifer.patch@villanova.edu](mailto:jennifer.patch@villanova.edu) if you would like to be added to our mailing list or if you have any other questions.

Once again, the Villanova Math Club wishes you a fun and successful semester!

## '08-'09 Math T-Shirts

There are still some math t-shirts left for those who placed an order last semester and have not yet picked it up. Please visit the Math Department (SAC 305) during the times listed below for t-shirt payment and pickup.

Monday	12:30 – 4:00
Tuesday	2:30 – 4:00
Wednesday	12:30 – 4:00
Thursday	2:30 – 4:00

*(The t-shirts are \$10.00 each.)*

*The Department of Mathematical Sciences is located in the Saint Augustine Center, Office 305.*

**Telephone:** 610.519.4850  
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**Email:** [math@villanova.edu](mailto:math@villanova.edu)

**Chair:** Dr. Douglas Norton  
**Staff:** Marie O'Brien (9-4809)  
Lorraine McGraw (9-4850)

## Spring 2009 Colloquiums:

Friday, February 20 <sup>th</sup> :	Dr. Rommel Regis (St. Joseph's University)	✓
Friday, March 13 <sup>th</sup> :	Dr. Frederick Hartmann	✓
Friday, March 27 <sup>th</sup> :	Dr. Michael Posner	✓
Friday, April 24 <sup>th</sup> :	TBA	
Tuesday, April 28 <sup>th</sup> :	Lorelei Koss (Dickinson College)	

*All colloquiums will be held at 2:30. Topics and locations will be announced closer to the presentation dates.*

The Villanova Math Club Presents:

### Math Career Night 2009

Teaching  
Insurance  
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Mathematica  
National Security Agency  
Goldman Sachs  
Morgan Stanley

Join us on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>  
8:00pm in CEER 001

*Light refreshments will be served.*

“THE MATHEMATICIAN'S  
PATTERNS, LIKE THE PAINTER'S OR  
THE POET'S MUST BE BEAUTIFUL;  
THE IDEAS, LIKE THE COLORS OR  
THE WORDS MUST FIT TOGETHER IN  
A HARMONIOUS WAY. BEAUTY IS  
THE FIRST TEST: THERE IS NO  
PERMANENT PLACE IN THIS WORLD  
FOR UGLY MATHEMATICS.”

- Godfrey H. Hardy

### Faculty Birthdays:

Bob Jantzen – April 8<sup>th</sup>  
Paul Lupinacci – April 21<sup>st</sup>  
Michael Posner – April 24<sup>th</sup>

## Math Courses Offered in Fall 2009:

4110 Combinatorics with Dr. Pasles  
MWF from 1:30 – 2:20  
CRN 21482

5920 Cryptography with Dr. Deanin  
R from 6:15 – 8:45  
CRN 21485

4310 Stat Methods with Dr. Posner  
TR from 10:00 – 11:15  
CRN 21480

TR from 2:30 – 3:45  
CRN 21481

*As always, talk with your advisor  
for any questions or concerns  
about scheduling and registration.*

5600 Differential Geometry with Dr. Volpert  
MW from 4:30 – 5:45  
CRN 21483

## Ask The Seniors:

*As their final semester at Villanova winds down, four senior math majors offer their last words of wisdom...*

### Why did you choose to be a math major at Villanova?

- I applied as a math major, but was hesitant about it until I passed Diff Eq. After that, I knew math was for me!
- I started as an astronomy major, and then added the math major after I took some math classes and realized how much I loved it.
- I love numbers and number crunching, so I narrowed my choices down to accounting and math. I decided on math because I wanted the more well-rounded education from the College of Arts and Sciences.
- In high school, I was the annoying girl in math class that always asked "But why is it that way?" My teachers would always tell me that the math majors in college found out those answers, so that's how I decided to be a math major here.

### What was the best math class you took at Villanova?

- Foundations, because it touched on so many different topics in math.
- Any of Dr. Jantzen's classes. He taught my first math class at Villanova, he's my advisor, and I love his teaching style.
- Financial Derivatives with Dr. Volpert.
- Modern Algebra with Dr. Pasles and Numerical Analysis with Dr. Ashley.

### What is the most fun or most difficult part of being a math major at Villanova?

- The most fun part of being a math major is working with other people to figure out the tough problems.
- The most fun part is getting to bond with all of the other math majors from having all of our classes together, but proofs are the worst!
- The annual student vs. faculty softball game at the end of the spring semester is the best!
- Getting to know the math faculty and all of the other students in my major was great. We're a really tight-knit group. I was definitely not a big fan of Maple, though!

### What are you planning or hoping to do with your math degree?

- I will be a software engineer, working with a team of people and applying my math skills to create new technology.
- I would love to join the business world and do work with financial or statistical analysis.
- I am hoping to get into finance.
- I am going to work as a financial analyst and new business developer, which involves a lot of problem solving and number crunching.

### What advice do you have for the underclassmen math majors?

- Don't be scared of Maple; it's very helpful once you figure it out. Also, find a math buddy. It's a lot easier to do the work when you have someone there doing it with you!
- Do the homework as soon as possible while it's still fresh in your mind, and don't be afraid to visit a professor during office hours if you need help!
- Appreciate what you're learning and try to see how cool it is. My biggest regret is that I crammed the night before for tests and didn't really retain all of the information afterward.
- Never study for a test alone if you can help it. Work with another person or in a group and try to "teach" the information to each other. I promise you'll remember the material a lot better!

Best wishes for the Class of 2009!

## "Sum" Games:

### "Sum" Poems in Honor of April Fool's...

Integral z-squared dz  
From 1 to the cube root of 3  
Times the cosine  
Of three pi over 9  
Equals log of the cube root of 'e'

A mathematician confided  
That the Möbius band is one-sided  
And you'll get quite a laugh  
If you cut one in half  
'Cause it stays in one piece when divided

Pi goes on and on and on...  
And e is just as cursed  
I wonder: Which is larger  
When their digits are reversed?

I used to think math was no fun  
'Cause I couldn't see how it was done  
Now Euler's my hero  
And I can see why zero  
Equals e to the i pi plus 1