

# math news

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## Graduating Seniors

Congratulations to graduating mathematics majors Joseph Bascelli, Bradley Phillips, and Steven Schrader. Ceremonies are on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 (Business and Education) and at 2:00 (Liberal Arts and Sciences).

## Come to the Symposium

On Saturday May 1, the Mathematics Department, in cooperation with the Maryland Council of Teachers of Mathematics, will hold the 38<sup>th</sup> annual Frostburg State University Mathematics Symposium in the Compton Science Center. Designed to benefit elementary to college level mathematics educators from Maryland and surrounding states, the Symposium typically brings over 100 attendees to our campus. The ongoing theme of the Symposium is "Teaching, Learning, Exploring."

This year's featured speaker is Brian Hayes, a Senior Writer for *American Scientist*. Since 1993, he has been writing the "Computing Science" column for that magazine. Mr. Hayes will present his talk, "Gauss vs. The Vile Brute," at 1 p.m. All other talks are in the morning.

A tentative program can be found at [www.frostburg.edu/dept/math/symposium/symposium2010.htm](http://www.frostburg.edu/dept/math/symposium/symposium2010.htm).

The Mathematics Symposium is supported by grants from the Frostburg State University Provost's Office and the FSU Faculty Development Subcommittee, and is open free of charge to all FSU students who are currently enrolled in a mathematics class. Stop by the Compton Science Center on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, and participate.

## Informal Seminar: Writing in the Sciences

While Brian Hayes of *American Scientist* is visiting for the Symposium, he will also be meeting informally with students and faculty to discuss writing in the sciences. The event will occur on Friday, April 30, from 3:00 until 5:00, in Dunkle Hall 219. All are encouraged to take advantage of this very special opportunity.

## How About Poetry in the Sciences?

There was a young man from Trinity,  
Who solved the square root of infinity.

While counting the digits,  
He was seized by the fidgets,  
Dropped science, and took up divinity.

~Author Unknown

## KME Corner

KME will meet on Wednesday, April 28th at 3:30 in Dunkle Hall 202. Dr. Marc Michael will give a talk about origami. At the meeting, next year's officers will be elected and the possibility of a year-end picnic will be discussed.

## Speaking of Origami

The Mathematics Honor society, Kappa Mu Epsilon, and the Department of Mathematics will show *Between the Folds* by Green Fuse Films on Wednesday, April 21 at 7 pm in Dunkle Hall 218. This is a free event for faculty, staff, and students. (Feel free to bring your own food and drink.) This 90-minute, award-winning documentary explores the ancient art of origami and its connection to science, sculpture, and mathematics. Anyone interested in art, design, engineering, or mathematics should especially enjoy the film. For more info, visit <http://www.greenfusefilms.com/synopsis.html>.

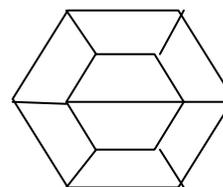
## More Origami Games

This semester's problem contest problem is now posted on the bulletin board outside Dunkle Hall 203. Deadline for submission is May 11<sup>th</sup>.

## Answer to Previous MATH NEWS Puzzle

**Puzzle:** Find a way to partition a regular hexagon into eight pieces, all of which are identical in size and shape.

**Solution:**



## Problem of the Month Decade

For more than two centuries, The U.S. Decennial Census has attempted to count how many Americans there are and where they live to determine appropriate representation of each state in the House of Representatives and to fairly distribute federal funding. Clearly, an accurate count of such a large and dynamic population is impossible to achieve.

Therefore, the use of statistical sampling arises as a possible means of "correcting" the actual enumeration figures. The debate on this matter is heated and ongoing. For a good primer on the subject, see articles such as the one at [www.scienceclarified.com/dispute/Vol-2/Should-statistical-sampling-be-used-in-the-United-States-Census.html](http://www.scienceclarified.com/dispute/Vol-2/Should-statistical-sampling-be-used-in-the-United-States-Census.html).