

# math news

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## Welcome

Math News welcomes you to another academic year. We hope you have a productive and enjoyable semester, particularly in your mathematics courses. Math News is published once a month, and distributed to students in mathematics courses at the Calculus I level and above. If there are any stories or features you would like to see in future issues of this newsletter, please contact Ms. Elder in DH 201B or Dr. Lemmert in DH 207B.

## Math Faculty News

### Dr. Michael Advances

At the end of last academic year, Dr. Marc Michael was promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor and given tenure. Math News takes this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Michael.

### Summer Activities

Several faculty were busy over the summer with math- and school-related activities. **Dr. Hegde** ran a math camp on campus for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. **Dr. Wojnar** once again co-directed the Maryland Summer Center for Mathematics; **Dr. Barnet** assisted Prof. Wojnar in this activity. **Dr. Revenaugh** advised incoming freshmen at Summer Planning Conference. **Dr. Michael** was a workshop speaker at a panel discussion, and he was also an instructor at the Allegany County "Gear-Up Math and Science Camp," both of which took place in June. **Drs. Michael** and **Wojnar** attended an MAA mini-course in Knoxville, TN in August. **Drs. Hegde, Hughes,** and **Michael** taught summer school courses.

## Career Day Session Planned

FSU's annual Career Day is planned for Friday, October 27, 2006 as part of its "Haunted Homecoming" Weekend. The mathematics session is scheduled for 12 Noon in Dunkle Hall 215 and will feature FSU mathematics alumnus Dr. Terry Rephann.

Dr. Rephann will relate how his education has benefited him in the various positions he has held, including research economist, collegiate director of institutional research, and city councilman. A question-and-answer period will follow afterward. All mathematics majors and minors (and prospective ones) are encouraged to attend.

## Virginia Tech Math Contest

Each year, more than 200 students from 40+ colleges and universities in Virginia and nearby states participate in a mathematics contest created by the Mathematics Department at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. This year's contest will be held on the morning of Saturday, Oct. 28, and students on our campus may participate. If you would like to test your mettle against some challenging mathematics problems, give the contest a try.

Interested students should contact Dr. Mark Hughes DH224 by Oct. 6, 2006. Copies of old tests can be viewed on the Virginia Tech contest web site at <http://www.math.vt.edu/events/competitions/Vtregional/exams.html>.

## Welcome to Dr. Forsythe

Math News welcomes Dr. Robert C. Forsythe as a new member of the Department of Mathematics this year. Born of Scottish heritage in Kane, Pennsylvania, Rob grew up in Bradford, Pennsylvania, and graduated (several times) from the University of Pittsburgh, earning a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, a bachelor's degree in Computer Science, and a master's degree in Mathematics.

While writing his doctoral dissertation at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Rob taught at Carlow College and at Westminster College. After receiving his Ph.D., Dr. Forsythe taught at Tabor College, at Ave Maria College of the Americas in Nicaragua, and at Morningside College.

Rob believes that he has found a "place to stay" here at FSU, where his skills, goals, and personality fit well. He is quick to observe that the town of Frostburg "has character," specifically putting in a plug for the chicken and pasta dinner at The Princess Restaurant on Main Street. He also likes the size of the FSU population and his ability to emphasize teaching, since "many students really know how to be students." He is teaching algebra and applied calculus courses this term, and is looking forward to teaching other mathematics courses, including upper level courses for mathematics majors, in the future. His philosophy of education is that "people learn mathematics by doing mathematics."

On the personal side, the Forsythe family includes wife Nina (a poet), daughter Hannah (a college senior, minoring in mathematics, by the way), and son Asa (a college engineering freshman). Rob's hobbies include reading and listening to music. He is already looking down the road toward retirement and thinking that Frostburg would be a nice place to do that.