

mathnews

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Fall 2010 Course Offerings

Math 236.001 MTRF 8:00 - 8:50 R. Forsythe
Math 236.002 MTRF 2:00 - 2:50 M. Michael
Math 237.001 MTRF 11:00 - 11:50 M. Hughes
Math 237.002 MTRF 2:00 - 2:50 R. Forsythe
Math 238.001 MTRF 11:00 - 11:50 F. Barnet
Math 340.001 T R 6:00 - 8:30 K. Parks (not for major credit)
Math 350.001 M W F 12:00 - 12:50 L. Hegde
Math 415.001 T R 2:00 - 3:15 G. Wojnar
Math 425.001 M W F 12:00 - 12:50 F. Barnet
Math 432.001 T R 8:00 - 9:15 F. Barnet
Math 440.001 M W F 2:00 - 2:50 R. Forsythe
Math 460.001 T R 12:30 - 1:45 M. Hughes
Math 491.001 M W F 1:00 - 1:50 M. Hughes

Departmental Problem Solving Contest

Last semester the mathematics department held a student problem solving contest regarding palindromes and would like to congratulate Robert Murtha, Laura Reeves, and Lv Tang for submitting entries. After a review of the submissions, it was decided that Robert Murtha was the overall winner this time. Robert received a certificate and a gift from the department. The department plans to hold the contest each semester, so look for the next posting near Dunkle Hall 203 in early April.



Robert Murtha

KME Corner

The mathematics honors society KME will meet Wednesday, February 24th at 3:30 in Dunkle Hall 202. This year's induction ceremony for new members is scheduled for Sunday, March 7th at 2:00 in Compton Hall 226 and will include a presentation on anaglyphs by Dr. Barnet. Refreshments also will be served.

Scholarships Available

Students are encouraged to visit the mathematics webpage <http://www.frostburg.edu/dept/math/general/scholarship.htm> to learn about scholarships that are available to mathematics students for the coming academic year. From incoming freshman to senior status, students can benefit from their interest in mathematics. The deadline for applications has been extended this year until March 22nd.

Answer to Previous MATH NEWS Puzzle

Puzzle: There are 25 window panes arranged in a 5x5 square. Three of the panes are accidentally broken by employees playing baseball. What is the probability that all 3 broken panes lie on a diagonal?

Solution: There are ten diagonals containing 3 or more panes, five going up from left to right and five going down from left to right. Four of the diagonals contain 3 panes of glass, four diagonals contain 4 panes of glass, and two diagonals contain 5 panes of glass.

The number of ways 3 broken panes could lie on a diagonal, then, is $4(3C_3 + 4C_3) + 2(5C_3) = 40$. The total number of ways of breaking 3 out of 25 panes is $25C_3 = 2300$. So the probability that all 3 broken panes lie on a diagonal is $40/2300 = 0.01739$.

Student Reporters Wanted

If you have an idea for a MATH NEWS story, please contact Professor Kurt Lemmert in Dunkle Hall 207B or via email (KLemmert@frostburg.edu). Our publication schedule is (at least) semisemesterial, so the next issue will appear in April.

The Shape of Things to Come

Find a way to partition a regular hexagon into 8 pieces, all of which are identical in size and shape. Look for the answer in April's issue.

Talking Math

"Mathematics is not a careful march down a well-cleared highway, but a journey into a strange wilderness, where the explorers often get lost. Rigour should be a signal to the historian that the maps have been made, and the real explorers have gone elsewhere."

~W.S. Anglin