

math news

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A Christmas Past

In the previous issue of *MATH NEWS*, we asked how many gifts were given and received in total during the run of the traditional carol “The Twelve Days of Christmas”. On the i^{th} day, the number is $1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + i = i(i+1)/2$. Hence the grand total is $12(13)/2 + 11(12)/2 + \dots + 1(2)/2 = 364$.

An alternate approach is to focus on each type of gift, rather than each day, figuring that, for example, 3 French hens were given 10 times. This yields $12(1) + 11(2) + 10(3) + \dots + 1(12) = 364$.

It may be interesting to note that if those gifts were spread out one per day, the gift giving season would last only a day or two short of the entire year.

Scholarship Information

Students are encouraged to apply for the various mathematics-related scholarships via the STARS online program. See <https://stars.frostburg.edu/stars/>. The deadline this year is March 1.

Make Money!

The Upward Bound Program at FSU is currently seeking applicants to fill summer tutor/counselor positions with responsible individuals who want to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged high school students. The deadline to apply is March 1st. For more information, visit www.frostburg.edu/UpwardBound.

Make Sense!

The department is pleased to host the President of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Linda Gojak, who will be making a presentation in the Atkinson Room in the Lane Center on Tuesday, March 5th at 7:00 p.m. Entitled “Everything You Do in Mathematics Should Make Sense!”, the talk will make the point that effective mathematics instruction that leads to learning focuses on reasoning and making sense, and will feature examples of how students can be helped to make sense of what they are learning in mathematics. All are invited to attend.

Make Plans!

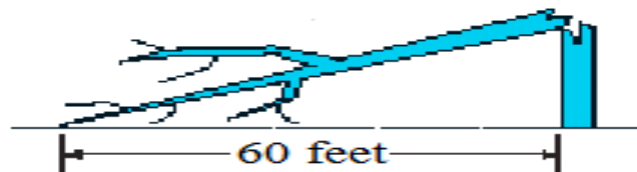
It’s never too early to plan ahead, so all students are encouraged to begin thinking about their course selections for Fall. Upper-level MATH offerings will be publicized soon and registration will occur April 1 – 19. See your advisor.

KME Corner

Kappa Mu Epsilon’s semester is underway, with ten new inductees set to join the honor society. On Sunday March 3rd at 2:00 pm in Compton 226, a “mathematical induction” (humor credit: Dr. Barnet) will occur for Jeffrey Coleman, Chris Colwander, Zach Crawford, Ryley McBride, Philip Rose, Jennifer Scudder, Andrew Sisler, Brian Umbel, Michelle Welch, and Jake Wigfield. Dr. Hughes will be the speaker this year, discussing the cycloid curve.

Storm Damage

Lightning hit a tree one-fourth of the distance up the trunk from the ground and broke the tree so that its top landed 60 feet from its base, as shown. A) How tall was the tree originally? B) Assuming the tree trunk is conical, what percent of the trunk’s volume fell?



Seminar to be Offered

The department’s seminar series continues on Wednesday, April 3rd at 4:00 pm in DH 211, as Dr. Laxman Hegde will present “Statistical Modeling: A Gentle Introduction”.

MO MATH

Dr. Karen Parks recently took a trip to New York City to visit the new mathematics museum. At momath.org, they describe the museum’s mission this way:

“Mathematics illuminates the patterns that abound in our world. The National Museum of Mathematics strives to enhance public understanding and perception of mathematics. Its dynamic exhibits and programs will stimulate inquiry, spark curiosity, and reveal the wonders of mathematics. The museum’s activities will lead a broad and diverse audience to understand the evolving, creative, human, and aesthetic nature of mathematics.”

There are over 30 interactive exhibits for kids of all ages. Dr. Parks even rode on the tricycle with square wheels! She also was part of a human fractal tree. (You can see the pictures on the mathematics department’s facebook page.) There were puzzles to solve, symmetrical art to create, tessellations to build, and so much to inspire.