

math news

Vol. XXII, No. 1

Sept. 2007

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 three times per semester, 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.

Virginia Tech Math Contest

Each year, more than 300 students from 50+ 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. 27, and students on our campus may participate.

Interested students should contact Dr. Wojnar (DH222) or Dr. Hughes (DH224) by Oct. 1. Copies of old tests can be viewed on the Virginia Tech contest web site at www.math.vt.edu/people/plinnell/Vtregional/index.html.

Monthly Competitions

Monthly, throughout the academic year, problem-solving challenges will be posted on the KME bulletin board across the hall from DH203. Highest-scoring submitter for the year will be invited to the U.S. National Collegiate Mathematics Championship at the University of Wisconsin.

Math Faculty Summer Activities

Several faculty were busy over the summer with math- and school-related activities. **Dr. Hegde** ran a math camp on campus for 4th and 5th grade students. **Dr. Wojnar** once again co-directed the Maryland Summer Center for Mathematics; **Dr. Barnett** assisted Prof. Wojnar in this activity. **Dr. Parks** advised incoming freshmen at Summer Planning Conference. **Dr. Michael**, **Dr. Revennaugh**, and **Dr. Wojnar** were instructors at the Allegany County "Gear-Up Math and Science Camp," which took place in June. **Dr. Michael** participated in a professional workshop at Moravian College, and he also reviewed an article for *Mathematics Teacher*. **Dr. Hegde**, **Dr. Hughes**, and **Dr. Michael** taught summer school courses.

Career Day Session Planned

As part of FSU's Career Day, Dr. Reinaldo (Ray) Machado will be speaking with Mathematics majors and other interested students. The discussion will occur at 12:00 Noon on Friday, October 19, 2007 (room to be announced).

Dr. Machado graduated with departmental honors in 1980. He earned a Ph. D. in Chemical Engineering in 1986, and joined Air Products and Chemicals in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He has held a wide variety of posts there, currently leading the technology and new products development for ion implantation chemicals serving the electronics industry. He is also a senior consultant specializing in electrochemical engineering, hydrogenation and oxidation reaction engineering. In addition, he has management experience, teaching experience, 14 patents, and 15 professional papers.

If you want to learn more about the wide variety of things a mathematician can do, and how to succeed in a mathematics-related career, this session will be a superb opportunity!

Interested in Becoming a Math Major?

On Tuesday, September 25, there will be a Majors Fair in the Lane Center. The Mathematics Department and Kappa Mu Epsilon (KME, the mathematics honorary society) will be sponsoring a table at this fair. If you are interested in becoming a math major, please stop by the table to talk to faculty and students.

This Month's Puzzle

Arrange eight 8's into integers in such a way that their sum is 1,000.

[Answer will appear in the next issue of Math News.]

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Puzzle: Every calendar year has at least one Friday the 13th (F-13). What is the maximum number of F-13s that can occur in one calendar year?

Answer: There can be as many as three F-13s in a year. For example, if a non-leap year begins on a Thursday, F-13s occur in February, March and November, while leap years beginning on a Sunday have F-13s in January, April and July. Using days of the year in terms of "modulus 7" helps the arithmetic.

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