

September 20, 2003

Dear Math or MT/CS Alum:

This year's St. Norbert College Pi Mu Epsilon Regional Undergraduate Mathematics Conference will be held on November 7-8, 2003. (See schedule below.) The featured speaker will be Richard Brualdi, from UW - Madison.

The November conference has a special feature this year. We were awarded a \$2000 grant from the Mathematical Association of America and the National Science Foundation to help support the travel of students speakers from other colleges and universities. We hope that this will attract a large number of student speakers from throughout the Midwest. It should be an exciting and enjoyable conference! On the enclosed survey is a space in which to indicate whether or not you plan to come.

Five SNC students attended this year's Mathfest (national meetings of the Mathematical Association of America and the Pi Mu Epsilon National Honorary Mathematics Society). They were: **Melanie Antos** ('05), **Adam Christman** ('05), **Brian Hahn** ('05), **Nicole O'Connell** ('07), and **Holly Thomson** ('04). Melanie, Adam, Brian, and Holly each presented a paper at the meetings. We received a total of \$3050 from the Mathematical Association of America, the National Security Agency, and Pi Mu Epsilon to defray the cost of travel, registration, and housing at the conference. We appreciate the generous gifts of the alumni to help cover the rest of the costs. If you are looking to make a gift to St. Norbert College, please consider giving to the Math Club Travel Endowment. In the most recent rankings by *U.S. News and World Report*, St. Norbert College came in third in the Midwest. Although we are proud and happy about that, we do note that St. Norbert College ranked relatively low in percentage of alumni donors. You could help both our overall rankings and our math students with one gift, regardless of how modest.

We hope to see you in November!

Sincerely,

Rick Poss
Professor of Mathematics
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Tentative program for the

Eighteenth Annual SNC Pi Mu Epsilon Regional Undergraduate Math Conference:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2003

5:00 pm Cookies and Registration in Cofrin

6:00 pm Student Talks

8:00 pm **Richard Brualdi:** "Graph Coloring"

Pizza Social to follow immediately.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2003

8:30 am Conference Registration and Continental Breakfast in Cofrin

9:00 am Student Talks

11:00 am **Richard Brualdi** "Reliable Communication over Noisy Channels, and Secure
Communication over Sensitive Channels"

This conference is free and open to the public and is an MAA NSF-RUMC sponsored activity, funded by NSF grant DMS-0241090.

St. Norbert College Math/CS Newsletter -- 2003

Bonnie Berken's exhibit on mathematics, titled "Culture Counts: People, Patterns, and Pi (π)" remains on display at the Neville Public Museum in Green Bay. The exhibit focuses on mathematics in everyday life and in different cultures. It opened on September 7, 2002, and will be on display until January of 2004.

Check the math web page at <www.snc.edu/math>. **Gene De Both** puts lots of interesting information on it!

John Frohlinger produced his 10th annual edition of *The St. Norbert College Journal of Undergraduate Mathematics*. The *Journal* consists of papers written by students in his upper level courses.

Bonnie Berken and **Kathy Muhs** presented a paper at the national meeting of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. The meeting was held in San Antonio, TX.

This year's winners of the Nicholas Nirschl Scholarship were **Tammy Bastian, Rachel Meulemans**, and **Jill Schmidt**, all ('04). As you may recall, these scholarships are awarded to math or CS majors who contribute to the program in ways that go beyond classroom performance. The awards are funded by donations from alumni. This year's winner of the Brenda Roebke Scholarship was **Rachel Meulemans**.

This past spring, **Jon Chernick** ('04) passed the first actuarial examination. This is the examination which covers mathematics, especially calculus and Probability and Statistics. **Dr. Gene DeBoth** discussed many practice questions with Jon and covers some of this exam in MT 321.

Math majors: During the 2002-2003 school year, the following students graduated with a mathematics major: **Erin Bergman, Stephanie Borgeson, Phil Busse, T.J. Decker, Eric Duoss, Jeremy Jackson, Scott Larson, Zac Leider, Mark McAllister, Neil Schimmel, Matt Soyk, and Rachel Tolish**.

Student Presentations: This past year, SNC mathematics students gave the following presentations. Travel to these conferences was sponsored in part by the St. Norbert College Math Club Travel Fund, which is supported by your contributions.

November, 2002 PME Regional Conference, St. Norbert College

Tammy Bastian: "Balancing the Balance"

Philip Busse: "Error-Correcting Codes and Abstract Algebra"

Jill Schmidt: "Effects of Capacitively Coupled Electric Fields on Human Adult Mesenchymal Stem Cells"

February, 2003 National Conference for Undergraduate Women in Mathematics,
Lincoln, NE

Tammy Bastian: "Balancing the Balance"

Erin M. Bergman: "Origami and Mathematics"

Jill Schmidt: "Effects of Capacitively Coupled Electric Fields on Human Adult Mesenchymal Stem Cells"

April, 2003 Section Meeting, MAA, UWC - Marathon County

Jill Schmidt: "Effects of Capacitively Coupled Electric Fields on Human Adult Mesenchymal Stem Cells"

August, 2003 Mathfest, Boulder, CO

Melanie Antos: "Any Way You Slice It"

Adam Christman: "Does Your Vote Count?"

Brian Hahn: "Honey, Where Should We Sit?"

Holly Thomson: "Fun with Triangles"

Notes from the Alumni: This section is based on the responses to the alumni survey that came out last fall. It is not intended to be comprehensive or all-inclusive. Please let us know about any errors or omissions.

John Burgoyne ('64) <jhburgo@attglobal.net> is semi-retired. He lives on a ranch in Texas and does some consulting work and some teaching at Texas Christian University. **George Nelsen ('77)** (M.S., Systems Management, U. of Southern California; M.E. Operations, Old Dominion U.) retired from the Army in June, 2003, as a Lieutenant Colonel. He enjoys running marathons and 50-mile runs. **Jim Pomykalski ('81)** <pomykalski@roo.susqu.edu> (Ph.D. James Madison U.) is a member of the faculty at the Sigmund Weis School of Business Administration at Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania. He specializes in teaching information systems. **Michele (Kwaterski) Paulsen ('87)** <lovestodream365@aol.com> teaches mathematics at UW - Fond du Lac. **Huang Tao ('87)** (M.S., Computer Science, Marquette University) is Chief Operating Officer for Morningstar, Inc. (the mutual funds rating organization). *Chicago Business* recently named him one of their "top 40 under 40."

Mike Ryan ('94) <michael.ryan@wmich.edu> (Ph.D., Economics, Indiana University) is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Western Michigan University. **Jen (Bierl) Melching ('96)** <jen_melching@hotmail.com> worked as a Programmer/Analyst at Nelco from 1996 - 98. She then worked as a Software Engineer at Frontier/Global Crossing before moving to Kansas City in 2000. She worked as a Software Engineer III at Spring World Headquarters for a while before taking the same position at US Central Credit Union. She and her husband have also started a business on line (www.looksurf.com) for freelance projects. They connect the workers with the work. **Sharon Szczepanek ('97)** <SLS1975@msn.com> (MA, Educational Leadership, Aurora University) taught at Haines Middle School in St. Charles, IL until 2002. She now teaches at Percy Julian Middle School in Oak Park.

Erica Pagel ('00) <ericapagel@hotmail.com> (M.S., Economics, Cornell University) worked for one year as an intern for Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. She is currently Senator Russ Feingold's legislative assistant on agriculture and food policy. **Kate (Rendall) Truman ('00)** <rendke@math.umd.edu> is beginning her fourth year in graduate school in mathematics at the U. of Maryland -- College Park. She married Chris Truman this past May. **Michelle Budzban ('01)** <budzm@juno.com> has been teaching at Green Bay West High School since the fall of 2001. She has been taking graduate classes in networking. She has completed part of the CISCO networking program. **Danielle Delimata ('01)** <rowport5@yahoo.com> (Masters of Secondary Math Education, University of St. Francis) taught at Our Lady of Charity School in Chicago and also taught Microsoft networking courses at Morton College before going to graduate school full time. **Kristy Callan ('02)** <goldilocks830@hotmail.com> teaches at Seton Catholic Middle School in Menasha.

MATH AND MT/CS ALUMNI QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: _____ Year of graduation: ____

Do you plan to attend the Pi Mu Epsilon Math Conference on Nov. 7 - 8 ?

If YES, which day(s)? Fri. evening, Nov. 7: ____ Sat. morning, Nov. 8: ____

Major or majors at SNC: _____

Minor or minors at SNC: _____

Please describe your career path from the time of your graduation from SNC up to the present time.
(Please list positions and employers.)

Please list any graduate study you may have undertaken:

Please indicate any aspects of your SNC Math or CS experience that might have been especially valuable. (Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

Please indicate any area(s) in which your SNC Math or CS experience might have been improved.
(Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

Your e-mail address _____

Please return the completed questionnaire to the Rick Poss, Mathematics, at St. Norbert College or
reply by e-mail to: rick.poss@snc.edu