

September 20, 2004

Dear Math or MT/CS Alum:

This year's St. Norbert College Pi Mu Epsilon Regional Undergraduate Mathematics Conference will be held on November 5-6, 2004. The featured speaker will be Erica Flapan, from Pomona College. Please see the schedule (below) for details on the conference.

Last year we were awarded a \$2000 grant from the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) and the National Science Foundation to help support the travel of student speakers from other colleges and universities. This grant helped our conference become a great success. We had ten student speakers from other schools, up from six the previous year. More impressively, we had 68 students from other schools. Not only did this surpass the 39 of the previous year, but it was by far the largest number in the eighteen-year history of the conference. Because of our success last year, our grant has been renewed for this year.

Seven SNC students attended this year's Mathfest, the national meetings of the MAA and the Pi Mu Epsilon National Honorary Mathematics Society (PME). They were: **Melanie Antos** ('05), **Brian Hahn** ('05), **Nicole O'Connell** ('07), **Jill Schmidt** ('04), **Sarah Van Asten** ('05), **Jenni Wirth** ('07), and **Alyssa (AJ) Wood** ('06). Melanie, Brian, Jill, Sarah, Jenni, and AJ each presented a paper at the meetings. AJ's presentation, "Mathematical Espionage: Breaking the 'Unbreakable' Code," won a \$150 prize from the American Mathematical Society for being one of the best student presentations.

Five of the students spoke at the PME session of Mathfest. This represented the largest PME contingent of any school in the country. This was the twentieth consecutive year that SNC has sent student speakers to the summer meetings. No other college or university in the country can make that claim.

We received a total of \$2855 from the MAA, the National Security Agency, and PME to defray the cost of travel, registration, and housing at the conference. We appreciate the generous gifts from alumni to help cover the rest of the costs.

Sincerely,

Rick Poss
Professor of Mathematics
rick.poss@snc.edu

Tentative program for the

Nineteenth Annual SNC Pi Mu Epsilon Regional Undergraduate Math Conference:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2004

5:00 p.m. Cookies and Registration in Cofrin
6:00 p.m. Student Talks
8:00 p.m. **Erica Flapan** "The Shape of Space"

Pizza Social to follow immediately.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2004

8:30 a.m. Conference Registration and Continental Breakfast in Cofrin
9:00 a.m. Student Talks
11:00 a.m. **Erica Flapan** "When Topology Meets Chemistry"

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 -- 2004

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

Jon Chernick ('04) passed the second actuarial examination in the fall of 2003.

This year's winners of the Nicholas Nirschl Scholarship were **Adam Christman, Brian Hahn, John Karls, Monica Spang, and Damian Wegner**, all ('05). 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 **Adam Christman**.

Math majors: During the 2003-2004 school year, the following students graduated with a mathematics major: **Kim Bartel, Tammy Bastian, Lindsay Bluma, Jon Chernick, Sarah Francois, Matt Heilmann, Corey Junio, Ashley Kiela, Catherine Lovett, Rachel Meulemans, Steve Prokash, Frankie Schartner, Jill Schmidt, Lucas Stangler, and Holly Thomson**.

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, 2003 PME Regional Conference, St. Norbert College

Melanie Antos: “Any Way You Slice It”

Adam Christman: “Does Your Vote Count?”

Brian Hahn: “Honey, Where Should We Sit?”

Jill Schmidt: "Semi-Automated Digital Image Analysis of Joint Space Width in Knee Radiographs"

April, 2004 PME Regional Conference, St. John’s University, MN

Sarah Van Asten: “Mathematics in Adaptive Education”

April, 2004 Section Meeting, MAA, UW - Platteville

Sarah Van Asten: “Mathematics in Adaptive Education”

August, 2004 Mathfest, Providence, RI

Melanie Antos: “Partitioning and Power Series”

Brian Hahn: “The Mathematics of Polarized Helium”

Jill Schmidt: “The Accuracy of Three-Dimensional Bone Models Constructed from Computed Tomography Scans”

Sarah Van Asten: “Mathematics in Adaptive Education”

Jenni Wirth: “Driving Mathematically”

AJ Wood: “Mathematical Espionage: Breaking the ‘Unbreakable’ Code”

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.

Thomas Hawley (‘48) thawley@wi.rr.com (M.S., UW – Madison) taught at Oconto High School from 1948 – 57; at Green Bay West from 1957 – 1960; and at Muskego High School from 1960 – 87 (where he also served as department chair). While teaching he took part in National Science Foundation programs at Marquette University, Georgetown University, and New Mexico Tech. He retired in 1987.

Jerome G. Tremel, O. Praem. (‘51) jgtremel@netnet.net (M.S., Math Ed, Purdue; Ph.D., Math Ed, Purdue) taught at St. Norbert High School in De Pere and Premontre High School in Green Bay before joining the St. Norbert College faculty in 1963. He remained on the faculty until 1969, when he was elected Abbot of St. Norbert Abbey. He served as Abbot until 1982. He has been Abbot Emeritus since then, but has held other positions in conjunction with that office. He was Formation Director at the Holy Spirit House of Studies in Chicago from 1982 – 89; he served at the Center for Spirituality at St. Norbert Abbey from 1989 – 95; he served as Administrator of Daylesford Abbey in Pennsylvania from 1995 – 97.

Holly (Harrison) Martin ('73) martinjhl@g2a.net (M.S., Education, Marian College) worked as a Systems Analyst and Programmer at Wausau Insurance for a year before beginning her teaching career. She taught mathematics at a succession of schools (East Troy High School, D.C. Everest Junior High School, Mosinee High School) until 1988 (with some time away to be a stay at home mom). Since 1988 she has been teaching Spanish at D.C. Everest Junior High School. **Jim Pelech ('73)** pejlo@prodigy.net (MBA, Governor's State; CAS, Math Ed, Concordia; ABD, Curriculum, National-Louis University) taught high school mathematics for 30 years. In 2003 he took a new position as a full-time instructor in math education at Benedictine University, in Illinois. **Donn Pierce ('75)** donnmikole@prodigy.net has been promoted to General Manager at Exel, in Grand Prairie, WI. Previously he had been General Manager for warehousing and distribution. **Karen (Koszalinski) Kaminski ('76)** Karen.Kaminski@harley-davidson.com is Lead Architect in the Information Services Department at Harley-Davidson. **George Nelsen ('77)** nelsenjorge@msn.com (M.S., Systems Management, University of Southern California; M.E., Operations Research, Old Dominion) retired from the U.S. Army (as a Lieutenant Colonel) in 2003. He is now a Department of Defense contractor at Joint Forces Command in Suffolk, VA.

Jonathan Moss ('86) jonathan.moss@rms.com (3 years of grad study in Statistics at the University of Arizona) worked for 8 years in the actuarial department at Fireman's Fund Insurance. He then moved to the company Risk Management Solutions. For 5 years he worked in the actuarial department. His current position is Lead Quantification Researcher. **Susan (Haderer) Baert ('87)** kenbaert@ameritech.net worked for Wisconsin Bell (now Ameritech) as a programmer until 1994, when she left with the birth of her first child. She then did part-time contracting at home. Three kids and 7 years of contracting later, she was hired by SBC to work in finance to ensure accuracy in accounting. She continues to work (about 20 hours per week) at home in Revenue Assurance. **Sharon (Johns) Janega ('87)** rschilipot@aol.com (M.S.T., Mathematics) taught full-time for 10 years (Notre Dame High School for Girls – Chicago; St. Bartholomew School; District #81 – Schiller Park). Since starting a family, she has been teaching part-time as a GED math instructor in Arlington Heights.

Lynnette (Brach) Skidmore ('96) (M.S., Curriculum) has been teaching high school mathematics for eight years. The first six of those years were at Downers Grove South High School. Last year she began teaching part-time after the birth of their first child. **Sharon (Szczepanek) Gunnell ('97)** sls1975@msn.com taught seventh-grade math at Haines Middle School in St. Charles, IL, until 2002. Since then she's been teaching seventh-grade math at Percy Julian Middle School in Oak Park.

Dan Milbeck ('00) milbeck28@yahoo.com just completed his final year of law school at the University of Dayton. He used his mathematical training to finance his way through law school in positions of Purchasing Manager at Master Lock in Milwaukee and then at Evenflo in Vandalia, OH. **Rob Mezera ('01)** rob_mezera@yahoo.com (M.S., Statistics, University of Iowa) got married in June, 2003, moved to Minneapolis, and works there as a Statistical Associate at GFK Custom Research.

MATH AND MT/CS ALUMNI QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: _____ Year of graduation: _____

Do you plan to attend the Pi Mu Epsilon Math Conference on Nov. 5 - 6?

If YES, which day(s)? Fri. evening, Nov. 5: _____ Sat. morning, Nov. 6: _____

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 help us with our assessment procedure by completing the following short survey.

1 Strongly Agree; 2 Agree; 3 Not Sure; 4 Disagree; 5 Strongly Disagree; 0 Not Applicable.

- A. The SNC Math program prepared me well for my first job. _____
- B. The SNC Math program prepared me well for advancement in my career. _____
- C. The SNC Math program helped me become a problem solver. _____
- D. The SNC Math program helped me think more clearly. _____
- E. The SNC Math program helped me express my thoughts more clearly. _____
- F. The SNC Math program prepared me well for grad school. _____

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