

September 23, 2005

Dear Math or MT/CS Alum:

This year's St. Norbert College Pi Mu Epsilon Regional Undergraduate Mathematics Conference will be held on November 4-5, 2005. The featured speaker will be Alex Hahn, from the University of Notre Dame. Please see the schedule (below) for details on the conference.

Last year, with the help of a second \$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, we had 22 student speakers and a record attendance of 158. Normally the limit on the grants was to be for two years. Because of our success during the past two years, however, our grant has been renewed at the \$1500 level for this year

Six SNC students attended this year's Mathfest in Albuquerque, NM. They were: **Jason Brinker ('05), Courtney Keady ('07), Nicole O'Connell ('07), Trevor Swanson ('06), Jackie Van Ryzin ('07), and Jenni Wirth ('07).** Jason, Nicole, and Jackie each presented a paper at the meetings. Jason's presentation, "Let Me Do a Little Number," won a \$150 prize from the American Mathematical Society for being one of the best student presentations.

This was the twenty-first 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 \$2520 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.

On the last page of this mailing again is a short survey that we would like you to complete and return. You might have noticed that only 21 alumni completed the 2004 survey. We deeply appreciate the time and thought that went into those responses, but they don't give us enough information to fully determine whether we are doing our job well and how to do it better. Please complete this year's survey, even if you did so in 2004 and even if you don't have any personal information for the 2005 Alumni Newsletter. We would especially like to receive responses from relatively recent graduates.

Sincerely,

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

Tentative program for the

### **Twentieth Annual SNC Pi Mu Epsilon Regional Undergraduate Math Conference:**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2005

5:00 p.m. Cookies and Registration in Cofrin

6:00 p.m. Student Talks

8:00 p.m. **Alex Hahn** "The Legacy of Galileo Galilei: Public Intellectual and Scientist"

Pizza Social to follow immediately.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2005

8:30 a.m. Conference Registration and Continental Breakfast in Cofrin

9:00 a.m. Student Talks

11:00 a.m. **Alex Hahn** "The Legacy of Galileo Galilei: The Mathematics and Mechanics of Balls on Inclined Planes"

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 -- 2005**

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

This will be **Gene De Both's** final year of teaching. He will be retiring after forty years on the St. Norbert College faculty. He is a major reason for whatever success we've had over the past years. The silver lining is that, for the first time since 1983, SNC will be able to hire a new full time mathematics faculty member.

This year's winners of the Nicholas Nirschl Scholarship were **Josh Domina, Christy Ernst, Mike Konicki, Martina Weber, Angie Wille**, and **Alyssa (AJ) Wood**, all ('06). 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 winners of the Brenda Roebke Scholarship were **Christy Ernst** and **Angie Wille**, both ('06).

**Math majors:** During the 2004-2005 school year, the following students graduated with a mathematics major: **Melanie Antos, Adam Christman, Ava Cimafranca** (posthumously), **Chris Griffin, Brian Hahn, Garrett Holewinski, Patty Kersting, Brian Kurzynski, Frankie Schartner, Monica Spang, Todd Tomalak, Sarah Van Asten, Jennifer Woodbridge**, and **Adam Zeleske**.

**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.

- October, 2004                   PME Regional Conference, Miami University (OH)  
**Jenni Wirth:** “Driving Mathematically”  
**AJ Wood:** “Mathematical Espionage: Breaking the ‘Unbreakable’ Code”
- November, 2004               PME Regional Conference, St. Norbert College  
**Jason Brinker:** “Let Me Do a Little Number”  
**Brian Hahn:** “The Mathematics of Polarized Helium”  
**Jill Schmidt:** (SNC alum at UW – Madison)  
  “Finite Element Modeling of Bone”  
**Sarah Van Asten:** “Mathematics in Adaptive Education”  
**Jenni Wirth:** “Driving Mathematically”  
**AJ Wood:** “Mathematical Espionage: Breaking the ‘Unbreakable’ Enigma  
  Code”
- February, 2005               Nebraska Conference for Undergraduate Women in Mathematics  
**Jackie Van Ryzin:** “Sumthing Special: the  $n$  Festivals of Whatever”
- April, 2004                   PME Regional Conference, St. John’s University, MN  
**Mark Krines:** “The Advantage of a Choice”  
**Jackie Van Ryzin:** “Sumthing Special: the  $n$  Festivals of Whatever”
- August, 2005               Mathfest, Albuquerque, NM  
**Jason Brinker:** “Let Me Do a Little Number”  
**Nicole O’Connell:** “The Rinsing Problem”  
**Jackie Van Ryzin:** “Sumthing Special: the  $n$  Festivals of Whatever”

**Alumni Survey:**

Here are the results of the **alumni survey** distributed in September 2004. The responses were broken into those from alumni graduating before 1985 and those graduating more recently.

Before 1985							
Question	1. S. Agree	2. Agree	3. Not Sure	4. Disagree	5. S. Disagree	NA	Average
A. Problem Solver	10	2		1			1.38
B. Think Clearly	9	4		1			1.57
C. Express Thoughts	2	8	3	1			2.21
D. Grad School Prep	1	6	1	1		5	2.22
E. Prepare for Job	4	8		2			2
F. Career Advancement	3	7	1	2		2	2.15
1985 and later							
Question	1. S. Agree	2. Agree	3. Not Sure	4. Disagree	5. S. Disagree	NA	Average
A. Problem Solver	6	1					1.14
B. Think Clearly	4	3					1.43
C. Express Thoughts	2	4	1				1.86
D. Grad School Prep	2	4	1				1.86

E. Prepare for Job	2	3	1			1		1.5
F. Career Advancement	3	4						1.57

The above data indicate a fairly strong agreement that the St. Norbert College mathematics program is meeting its goals. The two areas that appear to provide lower satisfaction are those concerning whether the St. Norbert College mathematics program helped students express their thoughts more clearly and whether the students were well prepared for graduate school. The mathematics discipline will work especially hard on these two areas. The data also suggests that there is more uniform agreement among the more recent graduates, which would indicate that some of the concerns of the earlier graduates have been addressed in the past twenty years. The number of responses, however, is too small to make any definitive conclusions.

**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.

**Richard (Dick) Schwaller ('50)** [paschwa@avicom.net](mailto:paschwa@avicom.net) (M.S., Math, Marquette; PhD., Mathematics, Montana State) taught at Marquette for four years and then at the College of St. Thomas (in St. Paul) for eleven years before earning his doctorate from Montana State in 1971. He taught at some other schools before returning to Montana State, teaching there until his retirement in 1994. **Myron George Hauser ('58)** [magmike59@aol.com](mailto:magmike59@aol.com) served as a US Signal Corps Officer from 1958 until 1960. After that we worked for General Electric, first as a Logic Design E and then as a Senior Project Engineer. He worked for one year at Badger Meter as a Senior Development Engineer before moving to Allen-Bradley in 1969. He had several positions there, retiring in 2000 as a Technical Consultant. **Thomas Benzinger ('59)** [jtbenz@charter.net](mailto:jtbenz@charter.net) (M.A., Mathematics, Bowling Green U; M.S., Educational Leadership, National Lewis U.; Ph.D., Educational Administration/Math Ed, UW – Madison) taught mathematics at Bangor H.S., Goodrich HS, and Marion College from until 1966. Starting in 1968 he served as K-12 Mathematics Coordinator at the Latin School of Chicago. From 1981 – 84 he was the Principal of Deerfield HS in Deerfield, WI. From 1984 until his retirement in 1999 he was the District Administrator at Evansville Community School District.

**Gene DeBoth ('64)** [gene.deboth@snc.edu](mailto:gene.deboth@snc.edu) (M.S. and Ph.D., Mathematics, Purdue) has been on the St. Norbert College faculty since 1966. He used to teach Mathematics and Computer Science, but is now concentrating on teaching mathematics courses where technology can be used. **Susan Casper ('68)** [suemboo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:suemboo@sbcglobal.net) (M.S.E. in Math Education, Bemidji State University) taught at Ashwaubenon H.S. from 1968 until 2001. She is an adjunct faculty member at St. Norbert College. She has taught the Math Methods for prospective teachers since 1990 and has taught in the mathematics program since 2002. **Mary Daniel (Casey) Cooper ('69)** [marydan@frontiernet.net](mailto:marydan@frontiernet.net) started off as a Fortran programmer with Du Pont. After one year she resigned and, while she and her husband were raising their son, held a succession of positions at non-profit organizations in West Virginia and Kentucky. In 1980 she started working for a bank in Rochester, NY, and held several positions there in Software Development. She now works as (mainly) a COBOL programmer with The Student Loan Corporation.

**Dick Jarock ('73)** [djarock@execpc.com](mailto:djarock@execpc.com) (M.S., Reading Education, UW – Oshkosh) taught at St. Nicholas School in Freedom for one year before moving to the Seymour School district in 1974. He taught at the middle, junior high, and high school levels until retirement in 2002. **Ed Wroble ('74)** [ewroble@sark.com](mailto:ewroble@sark.com) (M.S., Computer Science, Northern Illinois University) started at Illinois Bell

Telephone in 1977 in Data Communications Technical Support. In 1980 he took a position as Consultant at Software Architects, Inc., where he is now Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

**Barbara (Moran) Radvillas ('75)** [bradvilla@yahoo.com](mailto:bradvilla@yahoo.com) (MBA, De Paul) worked in several programming positions at the University of Illinois Medical Center and at Motorola before moving to Computer Associates. After working as Manager of Applications, Senior Manager for Technical Infrastructure, and Director, she is now Vice President of Technical Infrastructure.

**Donn Pierce ('75)** [donnmikole@prodigy.net](mailto:donnmikole@prodigy.net) has held a wide variety of positions in the transportation and logistics industries. He is now General Manager at Excel, in Grand Prairie. **Karen (Koszalinski) Kaminski ('76)** [Karen.Kaminski@harley-davidson.com](mailto:Karen.Kaminski@harley-davidson.com) is the Lead Architect in the Information Services Department at Harley-Davidson. She also has two daughters who are math majors at SNC! **George Nelsen ('77)** [Nelsengeorge@msn.com](mailto:Nelsengeorge@msn.com) (M.S. Systems Management, U. of Southern California; M.E., Operations Research, Old Dominion University) retired from the Army in 2003 as a Lieutenant Colonel. He is currently a Department of Defense contractor at Joint Forces Command in Suffolk, VA. He spends most of his time working with a large-scale computer simulation that simulates all aspects of fighting a war. **Ken Zoromski ('78)** [kzoromsk@wausau.k12.wi.us](mailto:kzoromsk@wausau.k12.wi.us) held several positions before deciding to be a teacher. He first taught in the Fort Worth school district and now teaches in Wausau, WI.

**Beth (Gunther) Rybakowicz ('82)** [beth.rybakowicz@metavante.com](mailto:beth.rybakowicz@metavante.com) has worked for 22 years at the Metavante Corporation. She began as a programmer then moved to a Technical Customer Service Role then to a Marketing/Sales Support role. She was an Assistant Management/Business Segment Manager for about ten years. She is currently a Systems Software Asset Manager and Vice President. **Duane Schneider ('82)** [dewey777@merr.com](mailto:dewey777@merr.com) worked at Super Value and S.C. Shannon as a Sales Representative before taking time off because of a physical disability. Since 2004 he has been an Outreach Worker at the Dane County Mental Health Center. **Paul Hirschboeck ('83)** [paulhirsch@yahoo.com](mailto:paulhirsch@yahoo.com) attended grad school at UW – Madison before starting as an actuarial student with Minnesota Life in 1986. He is now a Fellow in the Society of Actuaries and a CFA, working at Minnesota Life in investment products for 401(k) and pension plans.

**Joseph Van Erem ('85)** [jpvanerem@aol.com](mailto:jpvanerem@aol.com) (M.S., Mathematics, UW – Oshkosh) worked for four years in the Lewiston-Altura School District (in Maine) as a teacher and wrestling coach. Since 1989 he has been teaching (mathematics and computer science) and coaching in the Howard-Suamico School District (suburban Green Bay). In 1997 he won the Golden Apple Teaching Award. **Susan (Haderer) Baert ('87)** [kenbaert@ameritech.net](mailto: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. **Kathy (Slattery) Keith ('89)** [keith.katherine@epa.gov](mailto:keith.katherine@epa.gov) (M.S.I.E., Operations Research, Ohio State) has worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency since 1991. Since having her children, she is working part-time.

**Mike Ryan ('94)** [michael.ryan@wmich.edu](mailto:michael.ryan@wmich.edu) (M.A. and Ph.D., Economics, Indiana University) is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Western Michigan University. **Debbie (Giesler) Herbrich ('97)** [debbie\\_herbrich@yahoo.com](mailto:debbie_herbrich@yahoo.com) (MBA, Lakeland College) worked as an IT Help Desk Analyst for Schreiber Foods until 2001, when she started her current position as Logistics Analyst. In January, 2004, she went part-time after having her baby. **Nicki (Schleis) Styka ('97)** [nicole.styka@wellpoint.com](mailto:nicole.styka@wellpoint.com) worked as an actuary first at Allstate in Chicago and then at Humana in De Pere. In 2004 she moved back to Chicago to take a job with Unicare/Wellpoint.

**Sarah Vandenberg ('02)** [sva2g@allstate.com](mailto:sva2g@allstate.com) has been working in the actuarial department at Allstate Insurance Company, in Chicago. She is working her way through the Casualty Actuarial Society exam process. **Erin (Bergman) Lucas ('03)** [melo32981@yahoo.com](mailto:melo32981@yahoo.com) has been teaching Mathematics and Computer Science at Freedom High School since graduation from SNC. She is also currently enrolled in the Math Education master's program at UW – Oshkosh.

**MATH AND MT/CS ALUMNI QUESTIONNAIRE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

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.)

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Please list any graduate study you may have undertaken:

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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 helped me become a problem solver. \_\_\_\_\_

B. The SNC Math program helped me think more clearly. \_\_\_\_\_

C. The SNC Math program helped me express my thoughts more clearly. \_\_\_\_\_

D. The SNC Math program prepared me well for grad school. \_\_\_\_\_

E. The SNC Math program prepared me well for my first job. \_\_\_\_\_

F. The SNC Math program prepared me well for advancement in my career. \_\_\_\_\_

G. What specific skills learned at St. Norbert College played a role in your obtaining your initial position after graduating?

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H. In what areas of mathematics would additional preparation have been most helpful?

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Do you plan to attend the Pi Mu Epsilon Math Conference on Nov. 4 - 5? \_\_\_\_\_

If YES, which day(s)?    Fri. evening, Nov. 4: \_\_\_\_\_    Sat. morning, Nov. 5: \_\_\_\_\_

Your e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

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