
A f t e r m a t h

Calculus Carnival 2008

Jimmy Dillies

What could attract over a hundred undergraduates to the math department after 4:00 pm on a chilly Thursday? The Calculus Carnival indeed! The carnival is a mathematical fair where students joust with integrals, use their graphing skills to mark points and have their wit as ultimate strength. Split up into teams, students from many calculus classes faced one another in light hearted games such as Hollywood Squares, Win, Lose, or Draw, and Family Feud. Thanks to the terrific organization of Angie Gardiner and her team (Chris Cashen and Jimmy Dillies), and the benevolent help of the volunteers, students were able to discover that calculus could also be ‘fun’ and that they could spend a pleasant afternoon doing math!



Aaron Wood hosts “Hollywood Squares.”



Kathleen Moore hosts “Win, Lose, or Draw!”



Becky Clover and Dylan Zwick host “Family Feud.”

WAGS

Arend Bayer

On the weekend of November 8-9, this fall’s edition of the Western Algebraic Geometry Seminar (WAGS) took place at the department. Western algebraic geometry appears to be a growth market, with at least five new algebraic geometry hires among the participating universities. Two of them (Nick Proudfoot, Oregon and Sebastian Casalaina-Martin, UC Boulder) were among the speakers, along with Kai Behrend (UBC), Martin Olsson (UC Berkeley), Karl Schwede (Michigan, WAGS-Alumni), and Arend Bayer.

WAGS attracted 70 participants (funding 30 participating graduate students was made possible by the Clay Prize of Christopher Hacon). We opted to have a conference dinner in the LCB loft with Mexican food from Rico catering, which we can recommend to similar conferences at the department, as it turned out to be quite a success.

Holiday Party!!

Don’t forget the department holiday party this Friday, December 12 from 12:00 - 2:00 in the LCB Loft. It’s a potluck, so bring something yummy to share (please bring it ready to serve, meat and drinks will be provided). We also have a fun program with numbers provided by department members - you won’t want to miss it!

Personality!

We are pleased to introduce Della Rae Riker, our new hiring secretary. She also provides support for several professors, the Math Circle, and department colloquia. She also takes care of tea and is updating the photo board (if you haven't had your photo taken yet, stop by her office). Before she joined the math department she was working for a small humanitarian organization.



Della Rae (second from left)

Della Rae loves being a mom! She has a son who is a physical therapy major here at the U and plays ultimate frisbee. Her daughter is a senior at Highland High School who swims and sings in rock bands and a funk band. Della Rae also sings in a rock band, with other parents of the kids in her daughter's band.

In her "spare" time, Della Rae enjoys happiness, joy and laughter with her family and friends. She watches her kids' sporting events, sings with her friends, takes walks, watches cooking shows and tries new recipes, and enjoys live music.

We are happy to have Della Rae as part of the math department and look forward to getting to know her better.



Aftermath is published monthly during the academic year. If you have an idea or article to submit contact one of the editors:

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