

The Math News

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MATH MAJOR OPEN HOUSE THURSDAY available here!

February 27, 1830-2000, first deck of Chauvenet Hall

Learn more about the math major from current math majors, faculty members, and friends.

Ice cream and soda will be served.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

MATH PROFESSOR WINS TEACHING AWARD!

Dean Miller has just announced that the 2003 winner of the Class of 1951 Civilian Faculty Teaching Excellence Award is Professor **George Nakos**. Professor Nakos has taught in the USNA Mathematics Department since 1985. The award is also known as the Theodore J. Benac award; Professor Benac was a member of the math department for 56 years.

This semester, there are 28 sections of math courses (SM and SA) designed for math majors, enrolling 325 midshipmen (some counted more than once). So the average sec-

tion has between 11 and 12 midshipmen. Lots of personal attention

PLEBES DOMINATE MATHEMATICS JEOPARDY

Ronald Brown, **Raphael Thalakkottur**, and **Dan Ryan** led the **Class of 2006** to an easy victory over teams from the other three classes. The second annual Mathematics Jeopardy tournament was held on Tuesday, February 11, in Chauvenet 117, and took only 45 minutes to complete. The plebe team finished more than \$5000 ahead of the second-place **Class of 2003** team, Aileen Kenney, Jordan Levine, and Juan Antonio Rivera.

Quantum computing (see other side): sounds like computer science or maybe advanced physics? It's also mathematics. USNA Mathematics Professors **Bob Lockhart** and **Mitch Baker** have done research in quantum computing for the Naval Research Laboratory.

This issue's math problem: Alice flips 9 coins, Bob 10. The winner is the one who gets the most heads; Alice wins if there's a tie. Who's more likely to win?

Problem Solution: (If you can only buy chicken nuggets in packages of 6 or 9 or 20, what numbers of chicken nuggets (less than 1000, say) is it impossible to buy?) The missing combinations are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 22, 23, 25, 28, 31, 34, 37, and 43.

Visit the Mathematics Department web site at <http://www.usna.edu/MathDept/website/index.htm>