

The Math News

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Colloquium Takes the Cake!

Monday, August 25, featured the first Midshipmen-Faculty Colloquium of the 2004 academic year. A lively crowd heard Professor Ed Burger of Williams College talk about techniques for dividing a cake among three people in such a way that each person is guaranteed his or her favorite piece. After the theoretical cake was cut, attendees helped themselves to actual cookies and punch.

This issue's quotation:

"Biographical history, as taught in our public schools, is still largely a history of boneheads: ridiculous kings and queens, paranoid political leaders, compulsive voyagers, ignorant generals -- the flotsam and jetsam of historical currents. The men who radically altered history, the great scientists and mathematicians, are seldom mentioned, if at all." – Martin Gardner

On the other side:

Math majors can study mathematical modeling in **SA367**, appropriately titled **Mathematical Modeling**. Some of the issues that come up when implementing these models on

computers are discussed in **SM365, Introduction to Scientific Computing**.

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

Mathematics Major Redesigned for Class of 2007

Math majors in the **class of 2007** will choose one of two (as yet officially unnamed) tracks within the major. One will concentrate on the ideas behind modern mathematics and the other will focus on some of the applications of mathematics to other disciplines.

Famous USNA Math Majors (a continuing feature)

Captain Joseph Leidig, who graduated from the Naval Academy in 1978 with a major in mathematics, will be the next Commandant of Midshipmen.

Quick Math Problem:

Among the whole numbers between 1 and 10,000,000,000 (written in standard base 10), are there more numbers in which the digit 1 appears or more in which it doesn't appear?

Math Lab Open in New Location

The Theodore J. Benac MathLab is open in its new location in CH216a, on the second deck of Chauvenet Hall outside the entrance to the large lecture hall. Each class period a mathematics instructor is available there for help with your current math class or any class you're taking that uses math. Everyone is welcome!