

# The Math News

Volume 1, number 8    January 14, 2002

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Mathematics majors can take **SM367, Mathematical Modeling**, which addresses a variety of ideas involved in creating and using sophisticated models.

Math majors discuss sampling techniques in **SM339, Applied Statistics I**, and can learn more in **SA442, Applied Statistics II**.

Other courses in the USNA catalog related to the mathematics of modeling weather are **SM315, Partial Differential Equations**, and **SM426, Numerical Methods for Differential Equations**.

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Mathematics in the movies:

The current hit **A Beautiful Mind** is a fictionalized biography of the mathematician John Nash. Nash won the Nobel prize in Economics for his work in game theory.

Although winning a Nobel prize is an unusual event, it's not at all unusual for mathematical achievements to lead to important advances in fields, such as weather forecasting or economics, that most people don't think of as mathematics.

This issue's quotation:

Whoever despises the high wisdom of mathematics nourishes himself on delusion....

Leonardo da Vinci

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Early returns show that 151 members of the **Class of 2005** listed mathematics as one of their preliminary major selections.

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Quick problem: Suppose ping pong balls numbered one to one million are in a (large) barrel. If you randomly pick out three balls, what's the probability that the number on the third ball is between the numbers on the first two?

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The 79 current math majors had a combined semester QPR of 3.25 last semester. This was the second highest average among all USNA majors for the fall.

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