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MATH NEWS

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Coming Events

JULIAN CLANCY FRAZIER MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM

Tuesday, February 8, 1930–2030, Rickover Hall 102

Dr. Ken Ono, one of the top mathematicians in the world, will speak to midshipmen and faculty on “Adding and Counting: A New Understanding of a Mathematical Universe”. He will discuss his recent breakthroughs in number theory. Dr. Ono is a professor at the University of Wisconsin and Emory University.

OPEN HOUSE

MATHEMATICS AND OPERATIONS RESEARCH

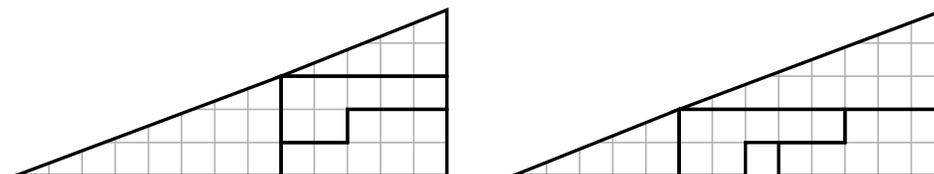
Tuesday, February 22, 1915–2100, Chauvenet Hall, 3rd Deck

Midshipmen in the Class of 2014 can learn about the Mathematics and Operations Research majors at this event. Faculty and upperclass Midshipmen will be available to answer questions and discuss opportunities. There will be a movie, ice cream, outside visitors—and a simultaneous chess exhibition by Prof. Traves.

Critical Thinking

Midshipmen who major in Mathematics and Operations Research hone their critical thinking skills by solving many types of problems. Here is one for you to practice on.

Missing Square Problem. The diagram shows four tiles that fill two different regions. By comparing the areas of the regions, we seem to show that $32.5 = 31.5$. Can you explain what happened to the extra unit of area?



If you're stumped, search for “missing square problem” on Wikipedia or Google.

Mathematics Faculty Profile

Dr. Meg Nikolov was born and raised in Middletown, New York, about 35 miles from West Point. She attended Cornell University and graduated with a B.S. in Statistics and Biometry in May 1999. After graduating from Cornell, Dr. Nikolov worked for two years as a statistician for Capital One in Richmond, Virginia. In September of 2001 she entered the Harvard School of Public Health's Ph.D. program in Biostatistics.

Dr. Nikolov's research focuses on latent variable modeling to assess health effects of exposures that are not directly observable. Specifically, she developed structural equation models (SEMs) to estimate the health effects associated with unobservable air pollution sources, given mixtures of particles from these various sources. Currently, she is developing SEMs to assess the impact of multiple marine stressors (such as toxic chemical contaminants, hypoxia, and siltation) on marine ecosystem health. Dr. Nikolov also serves as a statistical consultant in lung cancer research.

Dr. Nikolov is married to a USNA graduate, Piko Nikolov (Class of '99), and has two young sons. She and her family typically spend a month or more each summer in Varna, Bulgaria on the Black Sea coast.