

# The Math News

Volume 3, Number 5

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## New For the Class of 2007: The Applied Mathematics Track of the Math Major

Required courses: **Differential Equations, Matrix Theory, Topics in Math, Intro to Applied Math, Fundamentals of Math, Probability & Statistics, Adv. Calculus, Scientific Computing, Applied Statistics**

Plus a **Projects Course** and four electives chosen from an extensive list of possibilities.

This issue's quotation:

We often hear that mathematics consists mainly of "proving theorems." Is a writer's job mainly that of "writing sentences?" Gian-Carlo Rota

### Quick Math Problem

100 coins lie on a table, 40 showing "heads" and 60 "tails." You're blindfolded and wearing heavy gloves, so you can't tell which coins are heads and which are tails. How can you create two groups of coins so that each group shows the same number of "heads"?

Last problem's solution: (Flipping a fair coin, are you more likely to get 3 heads total or 2 tails in a row first? ) Two tails in a row will come first  $37/64$  of the time.

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### MATH JEOPARDY TO RETURN!

Amaze your friends! Quick! Fun! Fantastic Prizes!

Tuesday evening, February 24, 6:30-8pm in Rickover 110. If you're interested in joining the **class of 2007** team send e-mail to Prof. Hanna: [cch@usna.edu](mailto:cch@usna.edu) or Prof. D'Archangelo: [jmd@usna.edu](mailto:jmd@usna.edu).

(Please note that the literal meaning of "fantastic prizes" is "prizes are a fantasy.")

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### Famous USNA Mathematics Majors

(A Periodic Feature)

**Kate Oliver** graduated with Honors in Mathematics in 1999. She won a fellowship to Oxford University in England, where she earned a Masters' degree in Applied and Computational Mathematics. She's now in medical school at Bethesda. "I believe that my math background has helped me in all aspects of my career, since I attribute my ability to learn, regardless of the subject

matter, to my experience with math.” (Quoted from an article by T. S. Michael in a forthcoming issue of Math Horizons.)

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32 members of the class of 2006 are math majors.

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