

EPA

# Fantastic Updates

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We have some great chapter updates to share in this semester's edition of our newsletter. Give it a read and you might discover an activity that you want to try at your school. Thank you to all of the chapter advisers who work hard each semester to get me these updates. Also in this edition we want to share information on the MAA James P. Crawford EPaDel Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. As always, please send any contributions to ellen.panofsky@temple.edu.

#### Chapter Update University of Scranton

Eastern Pennsylvania

EPaDel

Delaware

This year we have welcomed Ben Coleman of Moravian College, Jennifer Schaefer of Dickinson College, and John Best of Baptist Bible College, who gave lectures in our monthly seminar series. Six students participated in the Virginia Tech Regional Mathematics Competition in October 2013, with four finishing in the top half. Other fall activities included participation in December's Putnam exam, EPaDel's Career Conference, and Moravian's Undergraduate Mathematics Conference. Spring In 2014. Scranton hosted two AMC competitions and the AIME competition, and six students will participate in the upcoming 2014 New Jersey Undergraduate Mathematics Competition.



EPaDel's Spring meeting will be held at University of Scranton on April 26, 2014.

Deadline for pre-registration is April 11, 2014.

Click here to register online

Click here to register by mail





#### Chapter Update East Stroudsburg University

East Stroudsburg University's math club is Euclid's Elements. The club meets monthly to discuss topics in mathematics. Recent topics have been about art and mathematics, linear algebra and conspiracies, and mathematical models of methamphetamine addiction presented by club member Danielle Williams, from her work at her summer REU.

#### Chapter Update Bryn Mawr

This spring we celebrated Math Awareness Week with a lecture by Leila Schneps, author of Math on Trial: How Numbers Get Used and Abused in the Courtroom, a Mobius bagel brunch, an origami workshop, pizza and the movie Traveling Salesman, and a puzzle contest.

#### Photographs

Above: Students work hard to create individual pieces for a larger origami project.

Right: Bagels just taste better when in they are shaped like a Mobius band!





Are you an undergraduate who has been working on a project? EPaDel has two great opportunities for you.

- Give a student talk at our Spring meeting. Talks should be approximately 10 minutes in length and can be expository or research oriented. Student speakers will receive free registration and a Certificate of Recognition from the MAA. Deadline for submission is April 11, 2014. <u>Click here</u> for more information.
- Submit a paper for EPaDel Section's Student Mathematical Papers Prize Competition. Submissions are due by June 15, 2014. <u>Click here</u> for more information. The winner of our 2013 Student Paper Competition has been selected, and will be announced at our Fall meeting.

#### Chapter Update Saint Joseph's University

The Saint Joseph's University Math Department hosted the EPADEL section meeting on November 9, 2013. Last October, we had a picnic on campus. Also, our Math Club had a bake sale to help the victims of supertyphoon Haiyan in the Philippines last November. Annamarie Everman is writing a Senior Honors thesis entitled "Faithful homotopy invariants for surfaces" under the direction of Dr. Samuel Smith. Caitlin Chirgwin is also writing a Senior Honors thesis entitled "Number and Magnitude in Classical Antiquity" under the direction of Dr. Paul Klingsberg. Finally, Lisa Chen, Tim Collins and Lyndsey Sample did a Summer Scholars project on Financial Mathematics also under the direction of Dr. Paul Klingsberg. They concentrated on results derivable under the assumption of arbitrage-freeness, notably the Black-Scholes formula.



#### Chapter Update La Salle University

Last semester, La Salle's EPaDel student chapter sponsored a talk by Dr. Richard Laverty, an applied mathematician at The Boeing Company in Ridley Park, PA. This semester, the students held a board game night and a late-night Pi Day event, which included a T-shirt making station, a contest to guess the circumference of a pizza pie and a dessert pie, and various games. Members of the chapter are visiting a local elementary school (St. Athanasius School in Philadelphia) weekly to provide exciting enrichment activities for some of the school's strongest mathematics students.



Photographs:

Right: Pi Night Below: Game Night





### Does your Department have a Great Math Professor?

## Nominate your favorite professor for the MAA James P. Crawford EPaDel Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics.

The professor must currently teach a mathematical science at least half-time during the academic year in a public or private college or university, have more than 7 years of experience in teaching mathematical sciences, and be current members in the MAA.

Also, the professor should be widely recognized as extraordinarily successful in their teaching (either inside or outside the classroom), have teaching effectiveness that can be documented, have had influence in their teaching beyond their own institution, and foster curiosity and generate excitement about mathematics in their students.

If you feel that your professor might meet these requirements, ask a faculty member in your department to fill out the simple one-page nomination form, which can be found <u>here</u>.

Chapter Update Millersville University

Last semester, we were mainly interested in problem solving. We worked through problems from the AMC, AIME, and USAMO. Students then presented their solution to problems that they found interesting. We also occasionally gave presentations on topics that students might get something out of. For instance, we discussed the form of the derivative of  $f(x)^{g(x)}$ .

Chapter Update University of the Sciences

Usciences chapter of Mathematical Association of America is planning some fun events for the upcoming semester. A celebration of  $\pi$  will occur in March, where members will review facts and eat pizza pies. An entertainment night will also be held this spring to give members a chance to relax. Lastly an end of semester social will leave members with good memories to carry them through the summer. Chapter Update Wilkes University

At our next meeting, the Wilkes Student Chapter will elect officers for 2014-15. We are also selecting a math-themed t-shirt for club members, using an online survey posted by the current Club President – we'll include a picture of the winning design in the next newsletter! Club members helped with the annual math contest for local high school students, which was held at Wilkes on March 5. We're going bowling with the faculty on April 12, and participating in the "Big Event" on April 26, which is a day set aside by Student Government for service to the community.



Chapter Update Kings College

King's College sponsored two mathematics colloquiums in Fall 2013 semester. Dr. Whitney George, an assistant professor of mathematics at West Chester University, presented "An Introduction to Contact Topology and Legendrian Knots" on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

We saw a specific type of knots in the standard contact structure called a Legendrian knot in the Euclidean space. Further, Dr. George presented Knot projections to classify knot structures. The second talk was held on November 21st entitled "The Secret Lives of Mathematicians" by Ms. Stephanie Thomas who works for The Department of Defense.

Math Club members enjoyed a scavenger hunt on October 17<sup>th</sup>. About 50 King's students competed at the event, and they had a great time to solve exciting math problems we do not see in classrooms – even, a math professor (Ryo Ohashi) was tricked by these problems!

Top Left: Kings College students solving problems during the math scavenger hunt.



The above picture shows Kings students and faculty attending Dr. George's talk on knots.