

Fall 2011 Math **Majors Meeting**

Tuesday, October 4th

7:00pm, Blocker 102

Dr. David Larson, Associate Head---

>Welcome

>Current enrollment is 436 **majors**, 161 APMS and 275 in Math. We have ~100 new freshman and transfer students entering this fall. We also have 554 math minors, and we are always looking to recruit more, so put your friends in contact with Donna if they are interested in switching to math or double majoring, etc. Or they can visit our "contact us" website: <https://www.math.tamu.edu/ugs/forms/tamucollege.php>.

>Research Opportunities – Students are encouraged to explore research opportunities available in summer REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates.) Students can obtain approval before embarking on a summer REU to obtain Math 485 credit the following fall. Also, Math 482 is Dr. Larson's Research course that is offered in the spring for those looking for their first taste of research and those wanting to continue an existing research project. Math 482 has been approved as a Communications (C) course for the core curriculum. Students are also encouraged to seek opportunities with current faculty, and credit can be given for this research by enrolling Math 491. Math 491 has been approved as a Writing Intensive (W) course so students have the option to do research and also prepare a paper thus qualifying for the W status.

> ESPN Internships – Dr. Larson and the Statistics department met with representatives from ESPN recently to learn about a new internship program ESPN is starting for math and STAT undergraduates and graduate students. They currently employ 170 people on the East coast in the sports analysis area. For those majors interested in sports, with good grades, you should explore this opportunity. ESPN expects that interns, if the feelings are mutual, will be given the opportunity for full-time employment after successful completion of an internship. Dr. Larson has asked Dr. Anna Spice to coordinate a visit by ESPN to an AMUSE seminar in the near future to give out more information on this exciting opportunity.

Dr. Mike Stecher---

> High School Math Contest - This years contest is on Saturday, November 12th from 8am-3pm in the Wehner Building on West Campus. We are in need of a t-shirt design for the coaches and participants. If you would like to submit a design, please send it to Donna by Friday, October 21st. We will need volunteers for proctoring, grading, lobby monitoring, and running errands. If you are willing to help out, breakfast and lunch will be provided. Donna will send out an e-mail soon asking for volunteers.

> GPR requirements-

1. Math majors must maintain a 2.0 overall and math gpr to remain in good standing. If a student gets a D in 171/151, 172/152, 221/253/251, 220, 222, 308 or 323 they must retake the course and receive a C or better to advance to the next level. Students retaking Math 220 can concurrently enroll in Math 323.

2. Students are not allowed more than two (2) D's in upper level (300-400 level) math classes. If a student receives a third D, then he must retake one of the three classes that he made a D in and receive a C or better.

>University Core Requirements-

1. Communications: Engl 104 and one of Engl 210, 241 or 301

2. Humanities: choose from any of the English literature courses

3. Writing Intensive (W Courses): All students in Catalog 130 and higher are required to take two (2) W courses (9xx sections) in their major. All students are required to take Math 220 which counts as one W course. Other eligible W courses are RDNG 372 (primarily for BA certification majors), Math 467, Math 409, Math 491, Math 482 and Math 396 are (1) hour Communications in Math courses that also count as the second W requirement. ECON 323, ECON 425, and ECMT 463 have been approved to count as the second W requirement for APMS Actuarial and APMS Economics majors.

> All current students need two (2) KINE's. One 199 and one 198. KINE 199 must be S/U and KINE 198 can be either S/U or for a grade.

> Q-drop deadline is Friday, November 4th.

> Preregistration for Spring '12 starts on Thursday, November 17th and goes through Friday, December 6th.

>Core Curriculum - If you are in catalog 125 or later, you must complete 6 hours of International and Cultural Diversity core requirements. If you are on the BA Math Certification plan, these 6 hours are built into your curriculum. Otherwise, there are courses that will double up and count for other core requirements. Free elective hours are increased if you choose courses that double up.

> Forces---The Math Department handles all forces for math classes with an online force request page. The page will be activated about 2-3 weeks prior to the start of spring classes. Watch for an email from Donna letting you know when the page is active. If you need a force into a course other than math, you should contact that department. All departments handle their own forces and they set their own forcing policies.

> What Can you do with a Math Degree? See the AMS webpage for information on graduate school and careers:

<http://www.ams.org/employment/undergrad.html>

> HP Scholarships – HP is offering a new scholarship to Math, Physics, and Computer Science majors who have at least one year of a programming language, junior or senior status, and at least a 3.2 overall gpr. Very well suited for BS APMS Computational Science majors. The scholarship of \$3,000 is awarded in the junior year, followed by an internship after the junior year, then another \$3,000 the senior year. Then hopefully a job offer after that.

> Best in Class Awards Presentation - The top student in each section of various 400 level math courses received a cash award and a certificate. Presented 11 awards from last spring to: John Laky (graduated), Jeff Nolan (graduated), Siying Peng (graduated), Robert Carpenter, Shelby Lee, Kenneth Reed, Andrew Ryan, Andrew Young, Jacob Peterson, Derek Allums, and Christopher Brooks.

Dr. Sue Geller –

> There are changes to the procedure for obtaining University and Foundation Honors, and for getting priority pre-registration. In order to earn University Honors or Foundation Honors, you need to apply for Honors status by February 24, 2012. The application can be found at <http://honors.tamu.edu/ha/> but it is recommended that you talk with an honors advisor in Henderson Hall first. If you are going for Math Honors, Dr. Geller needs you to email her at geller@math.tamu.edu so she can send a list to the honors people for you to get priority registration in the spring. You will still have to meet with Honors to get priority registration, but they also need approval from Dr. Geller. This means that she will always need to be informed on who is pursuing math honors. As a reminder, to be eligible for honors registration, students must maintain a 3.5 overall gpr. If you have a 3.45 – 3.49, you can be granted a one semester exception with Dr. Geller's help.

Dr. Anna Spice---

> AMUSE Seminar – Dr. Spice introduced herself as a Lecturer in the Math Department (her office is in Milner.) She teaches one of the previously mentioned W-courses, MATH 220, Inquiry-Based.” Dr. Spice coordinates the AMUSE (Applied Math Undergraduate Seminar) weekly seminar on Wednesday nights from 6-7pm in Blocker 627. The goal of the seminar is to present a broad interdisciplinary perspective on real-life applications of real mathematics, while being accessible. Speakers are instructors from various campus departments and also undergraduate speakers who present their research projects, etc. Free pizza and soda are served each week as well. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Spice at aspice@math.tamu.edu. The AMUSE website is: <http://www.math.tamu.edu/~aspice/AMUSE.html> where you can “Like” their Facebook page.

Dr. Mila Mogilevsky—

> Dr. Mogilevsky advises freshman and sophomore math/apms majors. Her advising hours this fall are on TF from 2-4pm. Contact Donna to schedule an appointment for advising on spring '12 courses.

> If you plan to take ENGL 104 here at TAMU, you must take it **BEFORE** you have 60 credit hours.

> Q Drop: A student is permitted to drop up to three (3) courses during his/her undergraduate studies. Each Q drop has to be done before the deadline on Friday, November 4th. Q drop forms are available for printing on the Registrar's website or in the Math Lounge, Blocker 605. Fill it in and bring to Donna in Blocker 605 for processing.

> First Year Grade Exclusion: A freshman student currently enrolled as "first time in college" may exclude from his/her undergraduate transcript grades of D, F, or U. This exclusion is permitted for up to a maximum of three (3) courses taken for credit during the twelve (12) month period beginning with the student's initial enrollment at TAMU. Check the Registrar's webpage (<http://registrar.tamu.edu>) to compare Q drop and grade exclusion or make an appointment to see Dr. Mogilevsky to discuss options.

> Important Dates and Deadlines:

*October 17 – Midterm grades due

* November 4 – Q-drop deadline

Last day for all students to drop courses with no penalty

Last day to change Kinesiology 198/199 grade type

Last day to officially withdraw from the University

*November 17 – December 6 - Pre-registration for Spring 2012 semester

Schedule an advising appointment with Donna (donna@math.tamu.edu)

*November 24 – 25 - Thanksgiving Holiday

*December 6 – Last day of Fall classes

> Degree Plans – See the department webpage for sample degree plans to aid in choosing classes for the spring. (see http://www.math.tamu.edu/undergraduate/degree_programs/ for details.) The key in scheduling is to diversify – keep your schedule balanced between technical and non-technical classes. Having to take 4-5 upper level math courses your last semester is not recommended!

> Wall Street Journal Best and Worst Jobs of 2009 lists Mathematician as #1, Actuary as #2, Statistician as #3. In the 2011 Wall Street Journal List, Mathematician was listed as #2 with pay of \$94,000, Actuary was #3 with \$87,000 and Statistician was #4 with pay of \$73,000.

> Useful Web Resources –

* <http://www.math.tamu.edu/ugs>

*<http://admissions.tamu.edu/registrar/> (Q drop and grade exclusion forms)

*<http://howdy.tamu.edu>

Dr. Doug Hensley---

> The Putnam Contest is a national competition open to all universities in the US and Canada. Our team has placed in the top 20 in the past. This year's competition is on Saturday, December 3 from 9-12 and then a long break for lunch (to rest your brain!) and resuming from 2-5pm. Even if you did not enroll in the 1 hour Putnam Challenge Course (Math 490), you can still join the team on Monday afternoons at 3:00pm in Blocker 117 to practice solving problems. For more info on the Putnam Contest, see Dr. Hensley's webpage at: <http://www.math.tamu.edu/~doug.hensley/putnampage.html> or email him with questions at dhensley@math.tamu.edu.

Dr. Ellen Toby---

> Dr. Toby introduced herself as the advisor for students pursuing the BS APMS STAT option degree plan. Her email address is ellen@stat.tamu.edu and her office is located in Blocker 410B. Dr. Toby mentioned that Statistics builds models to solve problems. With the ever changing job market, statistics helps students prepare for work in different areas. Statistics helps make sense of information and is used to make decisions. Statistics is almost always coupled with another interest that a student has. The APMS Stat option degree plan consists of STAT 407, 408, 414, one INEN course (INEN 420 or 421 is recommended) and required upper level math courses. If you have any questions or interest in learning more about a career in Statistics, please contact her by email or stop by her office.

Dr. May Boggess---

>UBM program – The UBM program began as a result of an NSF grant that pays undergraduates to conduct research in Math Biology. This program is highly recommended for students on the BS APMS Math Biology option since it allows you to do research and also get paid! If you are interested in applying for the program, email Dr. Boggess at mboggess@math.tamu.edu. There are UBM flyers that describe more details about the program located in the math lounge, Blocker 605.

>BS APMS Actuarial Option -

The Applied Math degree with an Economics or Actuarial emphasis is best suited for those seeking employment in the actuarial field. To read more information for future actuaries, see Dr. Boggess' webpage at:

<http://www.math.tamu.edu/~mboggess/ACTUARY/>

In the past Exam 1 and 2 covered economics and finance topics, but now students receive credits for these topics in their classwork, called VEE credit. The key to employment in this field is to start early and take as many exams as possible before graduating. Courses to help prepare for exams are Math 411, Probability and Dr. Boggess' Math 419, Applications of Actuarial Science, class. Take these classes as early as possible. Math 419 is offered in both fall and spring. Current enrollments in Math 419 are running between 25-30 and students are studying for exams 1-3. Most companies are not only looking for students with a high gpr, they also want to see that students have passed 1-2 actuarial exams.

Myra Esquivel and Jorge Romero, Aggie Actuaries Club –

> The Aggie Actuaries club is open to anyone interested in Actuarial Science. Meetings are typically held evenings in Blocker 628. The faculty sponsor is Dr May Boggess. The next meeting will be this Thursday, October 6th at 6pm in Blocker 628. The speaker will be Mercer, Inc. You can read more about the club at their website, <http://actuaries.tamu.edu/> and on Facebook, search “Aggie Actuaries.”

Laura Cafilisch, Math Club President---

> Math Club – Everyone who attends a meeting is a member. Its fun, a good way to meet fellow math majors, and everyone is eligible to attend. The October Math Club meeting will be held on Monday, October 17th at 7pm, in Blocker 111. You can find more info on Math club including a schedule of meetings at:

<http://mathclub.tamu.edu>

> Pi Mu Epsilon – The National Math Honor Society. Eligibility requirements are: Juniors/Seniors need a 3.0 overall GPR and a 3.0 Math GPR, Freshmen and Sophomores need at least Calculus I and II, plus two additional math courses with a 3.3 overall GPR and 3.75 Math GPR. If you think you are eligible, see Donna. The cost is \$20 for a lifetime membership.

> Student Chapter of the MAA (Mathematical Association of America) – Everyone is eligible to join and the cost is \$30.00 per year. You receive the Math Horizons magazine and a Focus newsletter with a paid membership. The Chapter number for the membership form is 00300453.

(No speaker, due to oversight), FAME Club---

> FAME stands for Future Aggie Math Educators and is open to all students interested in Secondary Education. The faculty sponsor is Dr. Vince Schielack and the current President is Joshua Guerra. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 27th at 6:00pm in Blocker 503. Donna will send out more details on the meeting, so watch for an email. Dr. Schielack is always available at the meetings to help with Field Plans. Questions can be directed to Dr. Schielack at: vinces@math.tamu.edu. Also, there is always free pizza and soda at the meetings!!

Donna Hoffman---

> Reminded students to watch for the email requesting volunteers for the High School Math Contest on Saturday, November 12th from 8am - 3pm in the Wehner Building. Volunteers receive free breakfast and pizza lunch.

>Students were asked to sign in with a check mark saying that their email address is correct or indicating a new email address for the math major listserv.

The **meeting** adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Hoffman