

The Möbius Trefoil Tribune

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Three of UW-Eau Claire's mathematics faculty are retiring.

Dr. Jo Ingle joined the Mathematics Department in 1979. Dr. Ingle taught classes in statistics and mathematics education. She has worked extensively with public school teachers and has made many presentations at local, regional and national meetings of mathematics educators. Dr. Ingle retires with the rank of Professor.

Dr. Robert Langer is retiring after 30 years on the UW-Eau Claire faculty. After joining the faculty in 1975 Dr. Langer has taught courses in pure and applied mathematics. In recent years he has concentrated on student-faculty collaborative research on problems from the extrusion die industry. Dr. Langer retires with the rank of Professor.

Mr. Stan Ediger began his career at UWEC in 1980. Mr. Ediger specialized in developmental mathematics and was the director of the mathematics laboratory since 1987. Mr. Ediger retires with the rank of Senior Lecturer.

The Department of Mathematics at UWEC will dearly miss the experience and expertise of these individuals, and we wish them all the best in their retirement.

New faculty member hired.

Joining us this fall will be Dr. Sherrie Serros who is currently an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY. She received her PhD in Mathematics from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and spent the fall semester of 1993 here as a Distinguished Visiting Professor for the Women in Science program. She is excited about returning to the mathematics Department at UW-Eau Claire where her specialty will be mathematics education.

Fourteenth annual Mathematics Retreat. On April 4, 2005 the faculty, staff and students of the Department of Mathematics of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire celebrated the fourteenth annual Mathematics Retreat. From 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. there were a variety of mathematics talks given by students and faculty. At 2:00 p.m. and again at 7:00 p.m. Gail Ratcliff, this year's distin-

guished visiting speaker, addressed the audience. The title of Dr. Ratcliff's talks were "Will You Ever Get Home From a Random Walk?" and "Party Tricks With $SO(3)$ ". Dr. Ratcliff is a Professor of Mathematics and Chair of the Mathematics Department at East Carolina University.

Scholarships and Awards. *Congratulations* to the following students for receiving the following scholarships and awards:

Brandon Barette, for the *Zivnaska Scholarship* (\$800). The Zivnaska Scholarship is awarded to a mathematics major with Sophomore or Junior standing. Selection is based upon scholastic excellence, a proposal for an independent study project and the successful completion of the project.

Bryant Brenner, for the *Wick Scholarship* (\$600). The Wick Scholarship is awarded to a mathematics major who has achieved the highest level of academic excellence in mathematics.

Cory Hilber, for the *Krajewski Memorial Scholarship* (\$400). The Krajewski Scholarship is awarded to a Freshman or Sophomore Mathematics Major or Minor who has completed Calculus I (math 114) and has demonstrated scholastic excellence and potential.

David Blascyk, for the *Wahlstrom Scholarship* (\$800). The Wahlstrom Scholarship is awarded to a Sophomore or Junior Mathematics Major demonstrating scholastic excellence.

Brent Haffendredl, for the *Rolland Mathematics Talent Scholarship* (\$250). The Rolland Scholarship is awarded to an entering freshman who has declared a major in mathematics who has demonstrated success in mathematics at the high school level and potential for continued achievement at the college level.

Cassandra Lawler and Amelia Brandt, for the *Charles B. Brown Math Education Scholarship* (\$500). The Brown Scholarship is awarded to a sophomore or junior math major who has demonstrated performance and potential in math education.

Carolyn Otto, for the *Outstanding Achievement in Mathematics by a Junior Stu-*

dent (\$500). The Outstanding Achievement in Mathematics by a Junior Student is awarded to a student of junior standing who has exhibited outstanding academic achievement.

Darin Mohr, for the *Exceptional Achievement in Mathematics by a Senior Student*. The Exceptional Achievement in Mathematics by a Senior Student is awarded to one or more senior students who have exhibited outstanding academic achievement and leadership in mathematics related activities. The recipients will each receive a book and have their names placed on a plaque across the hall from the Mathematics Department office.

Math Offerings for Fall 2004. It is time to register for next term. Here are the upper division mathematics courses for the Fall Semester of 2004.

- *Differential Equations (mth 311/511)*, 3 cr. 12-1 p.m. MWF, Elgindi.
- *Digital Signal Processing (mth 313/513)*, 3 cr. 6-7:15 p.m. TR, Walker.
- *Discrete Mathematics (mth 314/514)*, 3 cr. 10-11 a.m. MWF, V. Chadha.
- *Intro to Real Analysis (mth 316/516)*, 3 cr. 9-10 a.m. MWF, Tong.
- *Linear Algebra and Matrix Theory (mth 324/524)*, 3 cr. 1-2 p.m. MWF, Reid & 2-3:15 p.m. TR, Howe.
- *Modern Geometry (mth 330/530)*, 3 cr. 12-1 p.m. MWF, Giamati.
- *Intro to Probability (mth 346/546)*, 3 cr. 10-11 a.m. MWF, Alarcon.
- *Intro to Math Modeling (mth 354/554)*, 3 cr. 10-11 a.m. MWF, Schoen.
- *Intro to Linear Programming (mth 355/555)*, 3 cr. 8-9 a.m. MWF, S. Chadha.
- *Abstract Algebra I (mth 425/625)*, 3 cr. 2-3 p.m. MWF, Penkava.
- *Abstract Algebra II (mth 426/626)*, 3 cr. 2-3 p.m. MWF, Heeg.
- *Experimental Design (mth 443)*, 3 cr. 9-10 a.m. MWF, W. Applebaugh.
- *Foundations of Actuarial Science (mth 450/650)*, 3 cr. 11-12 a.m. MWF, Presler.
- *Integrated Math/Sci w/Technology (mth 453/653)*, 2 cr. 5-7 p.m. M, Faculty & 5-7 p.m. W, Faculty.

- *Special Topics - Secondary Math teaching in Depth (mth 491)*, 3 cr. 4-5:15 p.m. MW, Hopp.
- *Capstone Thesis/Project (mth 492)*, 1-2 cr. Time TBA, Faculty.
- *Capstone Seminar (mth 493)*, 1 cr. Time TBA, Balas
- *Mathematics Seminar (mth 494/694) (Putnam and Math Grad Record Exam Prep.)*, 1 cr. Time TBA, Passell.
- *Mathematics Internship (mth 498)*, 1-3 cr. Time TBA, Faculty.

Heads! No! I meant Tails! NO! I really meant Heads!

Two players play the following game with a fair coin. Player 1 chooses (and announces) a triplet (HHH, HHT, HTH, THH, HTT, THT, TTH, or TTT) that might result from three successive tosses of the coin. Player 2 then chooses a different triplet. The players toss the coin until one of the two named triplets appears. The triplets may appear in any three consecutive tosses: (1st,2nd,3rd), (2nd,3rd,4th), and so on. The winner is the player whose triplet appears first.

What is the optimal strategy for each player? With best play, who is most likely to win? Suppose the triplets were chosen in secret? What then would be the optimal strategy? What would be the optimal strategy against a randomly selected triplet?

Ask Dr. Math.

Dear Dr. Math

I was told by my roommate taking probability that if a coin were flipped 20 times we should expect 10 heads and 10 tails. My roommate and I have been flipping a coin to see who pays for the pizza. I like to pick tails but for the last 19 times it has been heads! It seems that I am due to win so shouldn't I keep picking tails?

Flipped Out

Dear Flip,

Tossing a **fair** coin has probability of 1/2 for heads and 1/2 for tails. I would bet on heads next time, you are using a two headed coin.