

ΣSUM TIMES

October 2002

Welcome Back to the 2002-2003 Academic Year!!

Mr. John Santomas and I would like to welcome the students, faculty, and secretaries back to the 2002-2003 academic year. I am always amazed at how quickly the first half of the fall semester seems to fly by. Every year seems to go by quicker and quicker. Oh well, I must be getting older. For those of you that don't know, Mr. Santomas and I are the faculty advisors to the Math Club and the SUM Times. The SUM (Society of Undergraduate Mathematicians) Times is the undergraduate mathematics newsletter. It is filled with important information that is useful for a Villanova undergraduate math major. The Math Club is the undergraduate mathematics society here at Villanova. It can be anything that you want it to be. In the past, the Math Club has sponsored events such as career information sessions, pizza parties, study groups, and the annual student/faculty softball game and picnic. However, to get this off of the ground, we need energetic freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors to get involved.

The beginning of the fall semester has been very exciting! Dr. Tim Feeman received the prestigious George Polya Award for his article "Conformality, the Exponential Function, and World Map Projections." This award is presented by the Mathematical Association of America for articles of expository excellence published in the *College Mathematics Journal*. Dr. Feeman received the award on August 2, 2002 at the Summer MathFest in Burlington, Vermont.

On Friday, September 27th, the Math Club held a very successful social. Besides munching on some pizza, Dr. Andrew Woldar stopped by to perform a mathematical card trick. By the way, have any of the attendees at the social been able to figure out the mathematics behind the card trick? Let us know! At the social, we discussed a number of exciting activities that the Math Club would hopefully engage in during the upcoming academic year. One of those activities is holding a math department t-shirt contest. You can find more information about the t-shirt contest later in this issue of the SUM Times.

I think that is all for now. Enjoy this issue of the SUM Times and remember...the Putnam Exam is right around the corner!!!! Oh yes, it will be a very good semester!

Dr. Paul Lupinacci

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Math Office: Saint Augustine Center, Room 305, Extension: 9-4850

How Do I Get My Pin Number?

Everything You Need to Know About Spring Registration

It's the week after fall break and you know what that means. That's right, its time to register for the spring semester! Many of you old dogs know the drill. However, for the freshmen and those of you that forgot, here is a recap of the registration process. The registration period starts Friday, November 1st and runs through Friday, November 8th. The seniors are the first to register. The juniors follow the seniors. The sophomores follow the juniors, and last but not least, the freshmen follow the sophomores. Sorry freshmen, but your day will come. You can't register for anything without your PIN number, and only your advisor has that. Prior to your registration date, you must set up an appointment with your advisor. At this appointment, you will discuss course options for the spring semester. Therefore, please attend the meeting with some level of preparation in terms of the courses that you want to take. After your advisor makes sure that your proposed schedule will keep you on target to graduate (this would seem to be important), you will receive your PIN number. Once your scheduled registration time arrives (time is found in your NOVASIS account under registration), register for your classes on the web through NOVASIS. That's it! Any questions? Ask your advisor!

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B.S. in Mathematics/M.S. in Applied Statistics Program

This program will allow a Villanova student to earn a bachelor's degree in Mathematics and a Master's degree in Applied Statistics in five years. Students in the Five-Year Program will benefit from exposure to concentrated statistics content, including graduate course work, within the time normally allotted to an undergraduate program. Students will be rewarded for their focus on statistics and on graduate course work by earning a BS in Mathematics and an MS in Applied Statistics in the equivalent of five years instead of six.

Students in the Five-Year BS/MS Program will complete all of the required work for a BS in Mathematics, including the core curriculum and all free electives. They will also complete all of the requirements for an MS in Applied Statistics. For the typical students, the accelerated timeframe for the two degrees depends upon three specific courses that are cross-listed as both undergraduate and graduate. Because of the relatively strong Mathematics and Statistics backgrounds of Villanova undergraduate Mathematics students, those students who choose to continue on to the MS in Applied Statistics program will not be required to retake these same basic courses at the graduate level.

Students may apply to be admitted to the Five-Year BS in Mathematics/MS in Applied Statistics Program after they have earned enough Villanova credits to achieve Junior status and after having completed MAT 4310 Statistics Methods or the graduate level version MAT 7404 Statistical Methods I. Students applying to the Five-Year BS/MS Program must have a cumulative overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher and must also have a cumulative technical grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

For more information regarding the Five-Year BS in Mathematics/MS in Applied Statistics Program please contact Dr. Pigeon at joseph.pigeon@villanova.edu or 519-7347

Have You Been to the MLRC Lately?

The Mathematics Learning and Resource Center (MLRC) is a great place to go for a tutor, study, meet as a group, get access to mathematical computing resources, or kick back and relax! Is there anything that you can't do at the MLRC? I don't think so! Walk in tutorial service is available in the afternoon and evening sessions. The MLRC has a computer lab featuring 13 workstations, all equipped with Villanova mathematics course software, such as Maple, Minitab, SAS, and Excel. Don't forget to check out the Math Lounge for quiet study or relaxation!

MLRC and Math Lounge

Where: Old Falvey, 2nd Floor
(near the Writing Center)

Hours: Sunday 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Monday – Thursday 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
and 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Phone: 519-MLRC
Voicemail: 519-5193
Web Address: www.villanova.edu/mlrc
For additional information contact:
Nakia Rimmer 519-7823

Career Services Campus Interview Program

The Career Services office offers eligible students the opportunity to interview with companies for both full-time employment and summer internships. Learn how to make the most of your job search by following these steps:

1. Log onto your account at <http://www.careers.villanova.edu/Students/StuExperience.htm>
 - Your user name is formed by adding "br372_" to the beginning of your SS# (e.g. br372_111223333)
 - The last four digits of your Social Security number is your pin
2. Complete or update your registration and upload a resume

If you are applying for the first time you must:

1. Read the Campus Interview Program at <http://www.careers.villanova.edu/Students/Stuocr.htm>
2. Read the Campus Interview Tutorial at <http://www.careers.villanova.edu/Students/StuIntSkills.htm>
3. Complete the Recruiting Activation Form at <http://www.careers.villanova.edu/Students/StuAcctActForm.htm>
4. Return the form to Corr Hall Room 104

Courses for Spring 2002!

- **MAT 4310** – *Statistical Methods* (Dr. Lupinacci):

This course is an introduction to data summarization and various statistical methods that will allow the students to begin to build up a toolbox of statistical techniques for handling data analysis. The class will study probability distributions that will serve as the foundations for these methods. The statistical methods that the class will study include point estimates, interval estimates and hypothesis tests for population means, variances and proportions, categorical data analysis, regression and correlation.

- **Math 5400** – *Complex Analysis* (Dr. Pasles)

Why “Get Real” when you can get complex? The results of algebra, calculus and geometry are all the more beautiful when viewed through a complex lens. In this course we’ll study functions of a complex variable. We will cover Cauchy’s theorem, power series, Laurent series, and much more. Math majors are required to take a second analysis course, so if you missed Advanced Calc II last year, sign up for complex! The official prerequisites for this course are MAT 2500 (Calc III) and 2600 (Foundations)

- **Math 5500** – *Topology* (Dr. Sprows)

Topology studies the “essential” shape of geometric figures. For example, a circle has essentially the same shape as a triangle, but the figure eight is not “essentially the same” as the circle (there is a [pint on the figure eight which when removed leaves two disjoint pieces, no such point exists on the circle). This course will consider such topics as the classification of surfaces and aspects of embedding theory, i.e., the various ways of one geometric figure can be placed inside another geometric figure. It will be designed to give some of the flavor of one of the most important areas of math. As stated by the renowned mathematician Jean Dieudonne, “It may already be predicted without great likelihood of error that the 20th century will come to be known in the history of mathematics as the century of topology.” (A Panorama of Pure Mathematics, 1982).

- **Math 5900** – *Dynamical Systems and Chaos* (Dr. Norton)

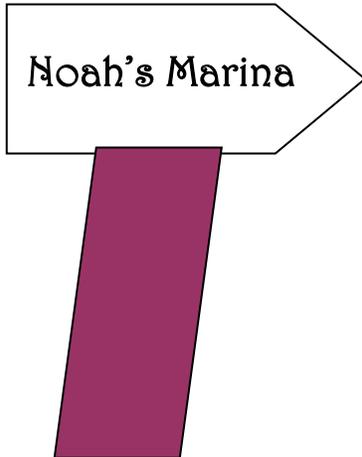
This course is first and foremost a seminar, consisting of supervised study of selected topics in the area of Dynamical Systems with presentations by individual students. Student participation will include: presentation of material from the text, classroom presentation and discussion of homework problems, research on individual topics (including looking at the mathematical literature on your topic), writing and revising a summary paper, and a final presentation to the class. We will begin with a survey of topics from discrete and continuous dynamical systems, including: iteration of real and complex functions, qualitative questions about differential equations, fractals, and the idea of chaos. Projects can be abstract or applied, theoretical or computational, topological or analytic, involve computers or to be computer-free, selected from across the wide range of dynamical systems topics.

- **MAT 8790 (Graduate Level)** – *Topics in Applied Mathematics: Mathematics of Finance* (Dr. Volpert)

Undergraduate Students must have Senior Status and a 3.00 cumulative G.P.A. to be eligible for this class.

This course is about financial derivatives, specifically option-trading. So, what is option-trading? Well, most people know about the trading of shares of companies, such as IBM, or commodities, like coffee or oil. What many people do not know about, is that there are many other things that are traded which are derived from shares and commodities. For example, the right to sell IBM-shares at a certain price sometime down the road. This right is called an option. Such options can be used for speculation, or, more often, as a kind of insurance or hedge against economic downturns. The question is, what is the worth of such a right? How much would someone be willing to pay for it? Over the last two decades the importance of financial instruments such as options has grown tremendously (it's a trillion dollar market now), along with the complexity of pricing them, and the need for powerful mathematics to master the market. In 1973, a method was proposed to find the value of options, which is now known as the Black-Scholes model and which forms the cornerstone of modern financial risk-management today. Scholes received the Nobel price in economics for it in 1997. In this course I would like to explore his ideas. The prerequisite for the course is the standard calculus sequence. Knowing some differential equations and some statistics would be very desirable, but it is not necessary. You are not expected to know anything about business. In fact, part of the course is dedicated to learning the basic tools of the trade, such as stocks and bonds, and to explore today's world of finance. **(Stop by the math office and fill out a pink registration card if you meet all criteria and wish to sign up for this class.)**

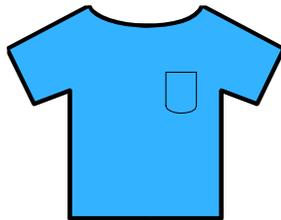
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Courtesy of Dr. David Sprows

Fall Semester Dates to Remember

October 31	Birthday of Karl Weierstrass
November 1	Undergraduate registration begins
November	Undergraduate registration ends
November 13	Last day for authorized WX
November 26	Thanksgiving recess begins after your last class
December 2	Classes resume
December 7	Putnam Exam
December 10 (Tues)	Day classes deemed a Friday class
December 12	Final Day of Classes
December 13	Birthday of George Polya
December 13	Reading Day
December 14-22	Final Exams



2002-2003 Department of Mathematics T-Shirt Contest

At the Math Club social, which was held on Friday, September 27th, the students voiced their opinion that they wanted an official Department of Mathematical Sciences t-shirt for the 2002-2003 academic year. It was decided that a t-shirt contest would be the best way to determine what this year's design would be. Here are the rules of the contest. Each student may submit a sketch of a design for the official department t-shirt. Each student may submit more than one design. The deadline for submission of the design will be February 1, 2003. There are some rules about the design. First, any **design must include the following somewhere in the design: a. 2002-2003 b. Department of Mathematical Sciences c. Villanova University. Also, the design must be in good taste and acceptable by Villanova's standards.** Mr. John Santomas, Dr. Robert Styer, a student to be named later and I will make up the official t-shirt design committee. We will judge whether or not a t-shirt is in good taste. All acceptable designs will be judged by the t-shirt design committee and a final four will be determined. The final four designs will be voted on by the students, faculty, and secretaries. The design with the most votes will be the official 2002-2003 department t-shirt design. The t-shirts will then be created and made available for the student/faculty picnic in the spring! So get your creative juices flowing and start working on those designs. **Please submit all designs to Dr. Paul Lupinacci (Saint Augustine Center – Room 390) by February 1, 2003.**

The Sixty-Fourth Annual William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition

If it is the fall semester, that means its time for the annual Putnam Exam! The Putnam Exam is an annual mathematics competition involving undergraduate mathematics majors from all across the U.S. and Canada. Last year, Villanova three math majors take the exam. There are prizes for individual honors as well as for team honors. The Putnam Exam will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2002. A brief history of the Putnam Exam is given below. If you are interested in taking the Putnam Exam, please contact Dr. Feeman A.S.A.P.!!! He must register you for the competition prior to the exam date. You can reach Dr. Feeman at 519-4693 or timothy.feeman@villanova.edu

History of the Competition:

The competition began in 1938 and is designed to stimulate a healthful rivalry in mathematical studies in the colleges and universities of the United States and Canada. It exists because Mr. William Lowell Putnam had a profound conviction in the value of organized team competition in regular college studies. Mr. Putnam, a member of the Harvard class of 1882, wrote an article for the December 1921 issue of the Harvard Graduates' Magazine in which he described the merits of an intellectual intercollegiate competition. To establish such a competition, his widow, Elizabeth Lowell Putnam, in 1927 created a trust fund known as the William Lowell Putnam Intercollegiate Memorial Fund. The first competition supported by this fund was in the field of English and a few years later a second experimental competition was held, this time in mathematics between two institutions. It was not until after Mrs. Putnam's death in 1935 that the examination assumed its present form and was placed under the administration of the Mathematical Association of America.

Iron Math Competition

In May 2002, the department's inaugural Iron Math Competition was held in the MLRC. Spectators were entertained by lights, music, and most of all the mathematical skills of the competitors. Senior Christopher Pilman challenged Iron Mathematician Ed Milliner to a battle featuring a surprise mathematical theme of the day...prime numbers. Questions concerned many aspects of prime numbers such as the Golbach Conjecture, the infinity of the set of prime numbers, the largest known prime number, and who was responsible for its discovery. Both Chris and Ed impressed all in attendance with their knowledge of the subject. The score stayed close throughout the competition but in the end challenger Christopher Pilman narrowly defeated Iron Mathematician Ed Milliner.

Preparations are already underway for the next Iron Math Competition to be held in the spring. The battle will feature a three person undergraduate team facing off against the department's Iron Mathematicians. Whose mathematical skills will reign supreme?

If any undergraduate or graduate students would be interested in participating in the upcoming competition please get in touch with Prof. John Santomas or Dr. Paul Lupinacci (your math club advisors).

Puzzle of the Month

At a certain corner, the traffic light is green for 30 seconds and then red for 30 seconds.

On the average, how much time is lost at this corner?

Submit your answers to: timothy.feeman@villanova.edu

MATH??? WHAT GOOD IS IT?!?!?

By Kevin M. Haigh, CMFC

When I told my friends that I was coming back to Villanova to tutor at the Math Center, I received pretty much the same response from all of them. "God, that is so pathetic!" Not that I can't see it from their point of view. I mean, I give four years of my life to this place, wasting every Thursday night studying the finer points of portfolio management when I could be out drinking with my buddies at Marita's, and when I finally get out into the real world and start making real money, I still give up my free time to explain the conceptual definition of a first derivative to freshmen business majors.

But alas, this article is not about my social life (or lack thereof), it is about why, despite the opinions of my peers, I am still here. You see, last May, I strolled across the stadium turf with 1,500 or so other fellow seniors and walked away with a pretty pair of bachelor's degrees, which, I might add, are still sitting on the floor behind my easy chair, waiting to be hung up. On top of this, I spend my week working full time in the financial services industry, so why would I ever want to pick up a calculus book after a hard day at the factory.

The reason, which most people might never imagine, is something far more diabolical than anything you could dream up in your darkest dreams. My fellow students, to put it bluntly, I have been brainwashed. Like so many prisoners of war caught behind enemy lines and forced to watch political propaganda, my brain can no longer function in the manner which it used to.

You see, my official job title is company stock accountant. My job consists of performing all the daily accounting-related duties regarding an assigned list of company stock funds for client 401(k) plans. If that sounds confusing, don't worry. When I tried to explain it to my finance class, 90% of them didn't know what I was talking about either. All that really matters is that I spend my day playing with two of my favorite things, numbers, and money. Throw me a copy of Madden 2003, and I'd never leave the office.

Mathematically speaking, my job really isn't that difficult. I'm part of a special project team that does some work with statistical analysis (we usually cheat and use Excel), but outside of that, forth grade arithmetic is pretty much the order of the day. As long as you can add, subtract, multiply, and divide, and know how to compute the occasional square root, you would fit right in. To make it even easier, we all get calculators! Ah, the wonder of technology!

At this point, you may be asking yourself, what good is math? Is there really any point to all of this? Well, I will admit, unless you're playing to go into nuclear engineering, or work on some top secret government project for the NSA, you probably won't need to know how to compute the spatial-gravitation relationship among sub-atomic particles in the fourth dimension. But you will need to know that two plus two equals four, and there in lies the beauty of math.

You see, over the past four years, I've come to realize that math isn't just a subject you study in class, it's a frame of mind, a state of being, dare I say it, a way of life. A baboon could tell you that two plus two equals four if you pound the words into his head long enough, but that's not math. Math is about relationships. It's about a cause, an effect, and how they interact.

I remember watching my mother quiz my sister on her multiplication tables when I was seven. It got to the point where I could recite the answer with my sister, simply because I memorized what she was going to say. It's one thing to say that 6 squared equals thirty-six. But it's another to look at that simple problem and visualize a field of thirty-six little dots, ordered six rows by six columns, and count them row by row, 6, 12, 18, and so on, until you can see in your mind all of those thirty-six little dots, and that they make up a six by six grid.

It truly is a frightening feeling, when, for the first time, you look at a problem and your mind already starts plugging in little x's and y's into equations that you're going to use to find the answer. This is what the math department has done to me. Every time I encounter an issue, math related or not, that involves some sort of critical thinking, my thoughts start swirling into some kaleidoscopic acid trip where the fundamental laws of reality no longer apply. Sometimes I'll be at my desk and I'll start muttering to myself algebraic equations that have been crawling around in my head, sometimes for as long as days at a time, while my co-workers stare at me like I'm some schizophrenic who has forgotten to take his Prozac. Do you have any idea how many times I have tossed and turned at night, unable to sleep, because my brain continues to ponder asset allocation strategies, despite the vehement requests of my body to sleep.

I must admit, that I am no longer the man I once was. I can no longer simply take an answer the professor doles out for granted and never think twice of his reasoning. My mind has been transformed to some inexhaustible, unrelenting, un-Godly thinking machine. And do not think for a second that you will be immune, for no one is safe for this scourge. This, my friends, is what mathematics has done to me, and not a day goes by that I don't thank God for it.

Villanova's Internship Program

Looking for an internship?? Villanova has an internship Program that addresses some of the following questions:

- ☒ Who is eligible for the program?
- ☒ What types of internships are available?
- ☒ Can I intern more than once?
- ☒ How do I earn academic credit for my field work?
- ☒ Is housing available?
- ☒ How are the internship placements arranged?
- ☒ What are the benefits of this program?
- ☒ How do I apply for the Internship Program?
- ☒ Are there deadlines?
- ☒ Who do I contact for more information?

Visit www.villanova.edu/internships/intern to learn more about what opportunities await or contact Dr. John O'Leary, who heads the program. Dr. O'Leary's office is located in SAC 450, and the main Internship office is in SAC 451, phone 519-4661.

Below you can read about the recent internships of two Villanova math Majors. Also, stop by the math office (SAC 305) and check out a book of past internships.

My Internship with BlackRock Institutional Funds

In the summer of 2001, I completed a summer internship with BlackRock Institutional Funds in Wilmington Delaware (it is only a half of an hour away from Villanova). BlackRock is a funds agency that deals with moneymarket funds and mutual funds. BlackRock usually employs co-op students from Drexel and Temple, but they also hire for summer interns. They have a variety of departments including marketing, administration, sales, trading and client services. My internship was in the client services department, which is basically the call center. My basic responsibilities included answering the phone calls from BlackRock's corporate clients and placing the trades for them. These trades then get transferred to the traders who make the necessary movements in the funds. My other responsibilities were answering questions for the clients about the funds that the client was involved in and if necessary, transferring the client's phone call to the appropriate person. BlackRock is an excellent company to intern for, especially if you are interested in working in New York City. BlackRock gave me the opportunity to take a trip up to New York City to see their headquarters. In New York, they have many technical and analytical jobs dealing with economics and mathematics, even for interns. BlackRock is a great company to intern with, especially for experience in the financial world.

Written by Alicia White

Math in the World of Business

As an upperclassman math major, I have lately questioned the possible choices of occupations I could pursue after graduation. Throughout my mathematics career, I have always been told that my options varied between becoming an actuary scientist or teaching mathematics; however, I knew there had to be more opportunities out there. So over this past summer I took my chances with the world of business and interned for Merrill Lynch Global Markets in the Debt and Equity division. I entered the program with severe inhibitions, questioning whether a math major belonged in a world of finance, accounting, and marketing business. To my surprise, I found that I was more than welcomed into this highly competitive yet fascinating community. I spent the majority of my internship rotating around the various desks of the Merrill Lynch Debt and Equity trading floor. I spent three weeks on the NASDAQ trading desk, three weeks with the Strategic Solutions Group (whose area of specialty is the creation of exotic options in both the stock and bond markets), three weeks with the Global Equity Linked Product Group, and one week on the Global Foreign Currency Exchange. In each of these four rotations I was able to creatively utilize my math skills and apply my basic understanding of financial math to the appropriate business of each respective desk. I proved to myself and to my employers that although I lacked knowledge of Wall Street, I was more than qualified to tackle the business at hand through the knowledge I have acquired in the pursuit of my mathematics degree. Therefore I can safely say to any graduating math major that there exists a whole world of opportunity for mathematicians in the world of business, and for anyone looking into a highly exciting and competitive career, business math is the place to go!

Written by Amy Ackers

Germany Abroad, or So I Thought

Studying abroad is something I had imagined myself doing since high school. I always assumed that when my junior year of college arrived, I would just pick up and go. Because I had studied in German continuously since junior high, I knew I wanted to spend time in Germany so I could put this knowledge to use. I thought, "That's it! All I need is a plane ticket and I'm ready to go." The notion that it might take me several months of planning and filling out the appropriate paper work never even crossed my mind. I quickly learned that advanced planning would make all the difference.

First, you need to determine exactly why you want to study abroad. This is important so you can determine which countries to consider and what program of study to pursue. Could you live for 5 months around people who don't understand English as well as you might wish they did? Are you interested in taking math classes while you are away? Maybe there is another subject like music or art, which you are interested in, but cannot fit into your schedule here at Villanova. These are among the factors you should be considering. Whether or not you realize it, deciding to live abroad could be one of the most important decisions you make during your time in college.

My next piece of advice would be to get yourself into the Study Abroad Office as soon as possible. It's never too early to look into a program. Once you've decided where you want to go and what you wish to study, you must apply to the program and determine which classes to take.

This last was the most difficult part of the process for me. You must first figure out which classes you need so that you won't fall behind in your major. Luckily, the numerous college requirements for Arts & Sciences finally came in handy. I did not take any classes in my major (mathematics) or my minor (computer science) while I was away, yet I will still be able to graduate on time. Since there are so many "other classes" that we have all to take as math majors, don't let the fact that you are a math major discourage you from studying abroad. Even if an entire semester seems impossible, look into the numerous summer opportunities which exist.

Once you have determined that study abroad is for you and you have selected a proposed course of study, there is still a very important piece of business to complete. You must visit every chairperson of every department here at Villanova whose subjects you wish to study while you are off campus. They must agree with your choices (save yourself some time and call ahead to see if you need an appointment). Repeat this process until you have signatures for 15 credits worth of class and then finish up with a trip to the Math office and the Dean's office for some more signatures. You might feel frustrated at this point, but once you've handed in the course approval form you're pretty much done with the application process as far as Villanova is concerned.

Depending on where you study, you still need to apply for documents like passport and visa. In addition, your program may require supplemental information. All of this is time consuming, but well worth the effort.

I did not end up in Germany as I had originally planned. Instead, I studied for 5 months in Vienna, Austria. During my time there I traveled to over 7 countries, went to several Viennese Balls at the Imperial Palace and absorbed some of the musical culture for which Vienna is so famous.

Everyone's experience is different and there is nothing that could have completely prepared me for mine. Keep an open mind! I can't promise you that every moment while you are away will be the best time of your life, but you will walk away with experiences you never could have dreamed of and which you might not have otherwise experienced. *By Elena Geraci*

Study Abroad

Interested in studying abroad? Stop by Villanova's office of International Studies and meet with Mr. Lance Kenney, director of International Studies or Miss Erika A. Strauss, Overseas Study Coordinator, to learn more about studying abroad. The International Studies Office is located in the first floor of Geraghty Hall, one of the former residences on the south side of Lancaster Avenue just west of the chapel. The Office is open from 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday. Mr. Kenney or Miss Strauss can be contacted by telephone (610-519-6412) or directly by email lance.kenney@villanova.edu erika.strauss@villanova.edu For more information visit the International Studies website at <http://internationalstudies.villanova.edu>

Study Abroad Fair:
Tuesday, October 22, 2002
9:00 – 5:00 in Connelly Center

Pro's and Con's of Studying Abroad

Last semester, I studied abroad in Adelaide, South Australia. The experience of a different culture and community was amazing. Anyone, if given the option, should study abroad. But as we all know, making the decision is not that easy. You need to look at some of the pros and cons concerning studying abroad. When looking at it from an academic standpoint, it is important that you can still graduate on time while studying in a new place. In my experience, there were not many upper level math courses available to take at the institution; so, I used up my electives. Another fact is, if you study abroad during your junior year, you're basically restricted into taking the Advanced Calculus sequence during your senior year or sophomore year. This is a disadvantage because it does leave a required sequence for your final year. Those are a few of the negative aspects, but I can't paint this picture of studying abroad which is purely negative. I think there are countless opportunities when you study abroad that you can't really experience while you're here. First the studying and the work was incredibly different for me. I didn't take any tests while I was in Australia; mainly, there were essays. There were fewer hours required to be in class, which allows for time to travel and see more of the city. The main advantage of studying abroad would be the people that you meet. I not only met other Americans from different schools which I know I will continue to be friends with, but also many people from other countries I've met people from Sri Lanka, Japan, Germany, and Mexico. Studying abroad allows you to see how these people view the world (specifically the United States). If nothing else, it is an eye opening experience. *By Jeanine Matuszewski*