Welcome Back to the 2004-2005 Academic Year

Finally, the lazy days of summer are over, and we’re back in classes once again! I’ve really enjoyed the slower pace and different goals of the summertime schedule, but I bet everyone is at least a little glad to settle into the school year, rekindling friendships and eyeing all of the new kids. To you returning math majors and minors, welcome back! Please know that we are all still here to help with any curricular or scheduling needs or irregularities you may encounter. Please help as we welcome the new math majors to the zoo that the first year can sometimes be: dropping and adding classes, keeping that old zealousness about learning while hiding it under a veneer of antipathy towards classes, adjusting to new schedules and to independent responsibility to meet those schedules. Feel free – especially the new folks, but really all of you – to ask faculty and other representatives of the university, from our wonderful secretaries to all of the official folks in the dean’s office, for help adjusting and learning about the place. Join the Math Club, drop in at the MLRC, work on the Sum Times, ask upper class math majors about courses and instructors, talk to us faculty members about math and more (we’re people, too!), and you’ll find more and more ways to fit in. Oh, and read down the first column. Welcome!

You’re invited to the 2nd Annual Math Sciences Party!

Date: Friday, September 24, 2004
Time: 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
Place: MLRC (2nd Floor – Old Falvey)

The party will be a great opportunity to meet other math majors, faculty, and staff! Pizza, soda, and snacks will be served. RSVP before Wednesday 9/22 to Marie O’Brien (ext. 94809) or Lorraine McGraw (ext. 94850) or e-mail lorraine.mcgraw@villanova.edu

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### MATH DEPARTMENT T-SHIRTS

Graduate Andrea Windt models the Math Department T-Shirt—the next Vanna White?

#### T-Shirts will cost $10 and be on sale in the Mathematical Sciences Office- SAC 305

Have You Been to the MLRC Lately?

The Mathematics Learning and Resource Center (MLRC) is a great place to go for a tutor, to study, to meet as a group, to get access to mathematical computing resources, or to 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  
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| Hours:          | Sunday 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.  
|                 | Monday – Thursday 1:00–5:00 p.m.  
|                 | and 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.      |
| Phone:          | 610-519-MLRC            |
|                 | (during hours of operation) |
| Voicemail:      | 610-519-5193            |
| Web Address:    | [http://www.villanova.edu/mlrc](http://www.villanova.edu/mlrc) |
Summer 2004 Actuarial Internship
By: Martin Ganda Class of 2007
Math major; Actuarial Science concentration

I did my internship at Harleysville Insurance Group, PA and I was working in the Risk Management Department. I worked in an actuarial environment. The schedule was very busy and I worked 40 hours a week.

I did a lot of work regarding modeling. My main task was analyzing data from the coastal counties where Harleysville writes business. The analysis was conducted through analyzing data per each county and zip code in which Harleysville Insurance had clients. I also managed to get the chance to participate in a strategy formulation exercise for the company with the senior management. I was also exposed to the art of negotiating insurance deals with clients as I attended meetings in which deals with corporate clients for the company were present.

I interacted with many actuaries from Life and Property Casualty sectors of actuarial science and this enhanced my understanding of the actuarial field.
Melissa Simone

Melissa is the new Director of the Math Learning and Resource Center this year but she is no stranger to the Villanova math community. Melissa graduated from Villanova as an undergraduate student in 2003 with a major in mathematics and a minor in business. She will be finishing her graduate degree this semester and is excited about teaching courses here next semester! This is Melissa’s fifth year working in the MLRC as she has been tutoring since her sophomore year. Melissa enjoys math and she loves helping people; thus, making this job a perfect fit for her.

Melissa is from Vineland in South Jersey but her family now resides in Cherry Hill where she visits often. She is very close to her family, especially her two older brothers. Melissa is also very fond of cats although she doesn’t currently have any to call her own.

The MLRC and the math faculty, staff, and students are glad to have Melissa onboard for another year as part of the Villanova math community.

Villanova’s Career Services Visits Math Department
By Stephanie Kersting

Are you a math major but have no idea what to do with your life? Do friends ask you what math majors do besides become teachers? Wouldn’t it be great if you knew all of your options and had help in finding connections in those fields? With the help of Villanova’s Career Services, some of our math majors are on their way! In early September, career counselor Dave Leibig met with students in the math department in St. Augustine Center to provide advice, answer questions, and distribute helpful information. The session was interesting because each of the math majors had different additional majors and minors, and very different goals for the future. Sharing these plans helped some to attain a better understanding of possible careers for one with a math degree. Actuaries, astronauts, teachers, pilots, bankers, and researchers all started their path somewhere. Villanova’s Career Services can help you start yours! The counselors are helpful, informative, and very willing to review your résumé and conduct a mock interview. Don’t be afraid to think about your future because the faculty and your fellow math majors are your greatest resources and are there for guidance.

Check out the Career Services Website: http://careers.villanova.edu/Students/index.html or stop into SAC305 to look at some of the career information that the Math Department has to offer.

Fall Career Fair
Wednesday, Sept. 22nd
(3-7pm) The Pavilion

Stop by the MLRC today and say hello to our new director, Melissa Simone!
A woman in a bar tries to pick up a mathematician. "How old, do you think, am I?" she asks coyly. "Well - 18 by that fire in your eyes, 19 by that glow on your cheeks, 20 by that radiance of your face, and adding that up is something you can probably do for yourself..."

## Top Five Math Major Pick-Up Lines

5. You fascinate me more than the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus.
4. Why don't you come up to my place to see my slide rule collection?
3. My love for you is like a concave up function because it is always increasing.
2. Let's convert our potential energy to kinetic energy.
1. You and I would add up better than a Riemann sum.

## Top 10 Excuses for Not Turning in Math Homework

10. It's Isaac Newton's birthday.
9. I couldn't decide whether i is the square root of -1 or i are the square root of -1.
8. I accidentally divided by 0 and my paper burst into flames.
7. It's stuck inside a Klein bottle.
6. I could only get arbitrarily close to my textbook.
5. I had too much pi and got sick.
4. Someone already published it, so I didn't bother to write it up.
3. A four-dimensional dog ate it.
2. I have a solar calculator and it was cloudy.
1. There wasn't enough room to write it in the margin.

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The Sixth-Fifth Annual William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition

The annual William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition will be held on Saturday, December 4, 2004. Students who wish to participate should contact Professor Feeman (timothy.feeman@villanova.edu) by Friday, October 8.