



The Villanova Sum Times

April/May 2010 Issue

Villanova University Department of Mathematical Sciences

YOU'RE INVITED!

PI MU EPSILON INDUCTION

YOU'RE INVITED TO THIS YEAR'S PI MU EPSILON INDUCTION

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2010

2:30 P.M.

MENDEL 102

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S PI MU EPSILON INDUCTEES!

Kate Breen, Cory Cousart, Stephen Cunningham, Eva Ellis-Monaghan, Anthony Franchetti, Shannon Gill, Ashley LaBate, Sarah Marion, Steven Scarpato, Kaitlin Tanner, Margaret Banker, Matthew Cali, Christopher DiBella, Christopher Dzera, Erik Mayer, Richard Sanders, Gregory Schettini, Margaret Shaia, and Taylor Smith.

Continuing Pi Mu Epsilon members: Michelle Altura, Elizabeth Awalt, Gregory Cappa, Paul Cornwell, Jennifer Flasher, Elizabeth Gilbert, Ryan Mancino, Kristie Michaud, Irene Shastri, John Nawn, Christopher Tomaszewski, and Stephen Twigg.

"Film is one of the three universal languages, the other two: mathematics and music." ~ ~ Frank Capra

In This Issue:

- ∞ **PI MU EPSILON INDUCTION**
- ∞ **FACULTY/STUDENT SOFTBALL GAME AND PICNIC**
- ∞ **ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT – AMY TAM**

*The Department of Mathematical Sciences of Villanova University
presents*

The 2010 Pi Mu Epsilon Address

Dr. Robert Ghrist

University of Pennsylvania

**Sensor Sensibility:
The Mathematics of Sensor Networks**

Friday, April 23, 2010

Mendel Hall, room 102

2:30 – 4:00 pm

About the speaker: Dr. Robert Ghrist holds the Andrea Mitchell University Professorship at The University of Pennsylvania, with a joint appointment in the Departments of Mathematics and Electrical & Systems Engineering. He received his Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics at Cornell University and has garnered numerous teaching and research awards, including being named one of Scientific American magazine's "Top 50" technology research leaders for 2007.



For Exam Schedules, check the Registrar's page at:

http://www.villanova.edu/enroll/registrar/registration/exam_schedules/

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Villanova Math Graduate: One Year Later...

*Amy Tam
Class of 2008*

It seems like just yesterday that I graduated from Villanova with my B.S. in Math and M.S. in Applied Statistics. One year later, I find myself working at what I consider my “dream job.” Currently, I am an actuary at Transatlantic Reinsurance located in the Financial District of New York City. I’m very grateful to have found a job where I can honestly say I love the work that I do.

While I believe the actuarial field can be a very rewarding career path for math majors, the decision to pursue an actuarial career should not be one that is taken lightly. To become a successful actuary requires a person to dedicate a large portion of his time and energy to studying for actuarial exams, which is a very lengthy and challenging process.

In my experience, I find that one of the biggest challenges I face is learning to maintain a good work/life balance. Between commuting, working, and studying for these exams, there is very little spare time for the recreational activities and hobbies that I participated in during my years at Villanova. Although my decision to pursue this career has been one of the best decisions I’ve made, there have been times when the rigors of the actuarial profession have been difficult to deal with. But, I believe that my Villanova education prepared me well to meet the challenge. As a student, my math courses demanded progressively more of me each semester and they pushed me to reach my full potential. This certainly helped to ease the transition between student life and a career in the professional world.

One course that I feel really gave me the tools to succeed in the exam process was Stat Methods 4310. This course will give you background knowledge that is very helpful for Exam P, which is generally the first actuarial exam that students attempt. Perhaps more importantly, this course will fulfill one of the five Validation Educational Experience (VEE) courses that actuaries need to complete. (See www.soa.org for more information about VEE credits.) The Statistical Methods sequence 7404 and 7405 are two more great course options that help students by giving even more exposure to the material that is covered on Exam P’s syllabus.

Keep in mind that no single math course is the magic answer to getting a passing score on an actuarial exam. One of the biggest differences between a positive and negative result lies in the student’s commitment. So, in addition to trying to absorb as much as you can in the aforementioned courses, I think it’s important to develop strong study habits now in all of your math courses, as this will be a key component to your long-term success. And of course, as with anything else in life, remember to keep everything in perspective and strive to find a balance. Try your best, and at the end of the day, that’s all anyone can ask of you!

Good luck!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
CLASS OF 2009
WHO WILL GRADUATE WITH A
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MATHEMATICS

May 31, 2010

Elizabeth K. Awalt
Vijay A. Bakshi
Kate Jordan Breen
Gregory Michael Cappa
Patrick Francis Costello
Cory E. Cousart
Elisabeth Margaret Crisafulli
Stephen Cunningham
Stephanie E. Davide
John Curran DePippo
Matthew David Dewitt
Ann Catherine Dillon
Renée C. Elder
Eva M. Ellis-Monaghan
Kathleen Elizabeth Fletcher

Anthony J. Franchetti
Elizabeth A. Gilbert
Shannon E. Gill
Ashley Nicole LaBate
Ryan A. Mancino
Sarah Marie Marion
Kristie Lynn Michaud
Jessica Margaret Phelan
William G. Phillips
Steven John Scarpato
Irene Ilenya Shastri
Allison Gladys Soss
Kaitlin Ann Tanner
Christopher Michael Tomaszewski
Ashley Elizabeth Vogel
Lauren Wedekin