

# The Sum Times

SEPTEMBER 2016

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Message From the Chairperson**
- **Fall Semester Dates to Remember**
- **New Faculty Spotlight**
- **MLRC**
- **Math Club News**
- **Math Dept. Summer Highlights**

## Message from Dr. Norton

Welcome to the fall semester. Those “transitional seasons” of spring and fall get their names from the springing forth of plants and the falling of leaves. Even the word “season” has roots in seed sowing. Not just fillers or connectors between those extreme seasons of winter and summer, they are seasons of new beginnings and of celebratory harvest. Our academic rhythms invert these roles: fall is a time for new beginnings, spring a culmination of a year full of harvest. And yet the rich colors of autumn, “ruska” in Finnish, seem right for the colorful settling-in to a season of learning that happens in the fall. (If you feel we have still not reached fall, I suggest *Before the Fall*, Noah Hawley’s new novel, described in *The New York Times* as “one of the year’s best suspense novels” filled with “enough red herrings to satisfy a flock of sea gulls.”)

Autumn is described by Jane Austen in *Persuasion* as “that season which has drawn from every poet worthy of being read some attempt at description, or some lines of feeling.” So herewith, a selection from George Eliot:

“Is not this a true autumn day? Just the still melancholy that I love – that makes life and nature harmonise. The birds are consulting about their migrations, the trees are putting on the hectic or the pallid hues of decay, and begin to strew the ground, that one’s very footsteps may not disturb the repose of earth and air, while they give us a scent that is a perfect anodyne to the restless spirit. Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns.”

Autumn is about change. So is Calculus: rate of change, cumulative change. Be the change you wish to see. Ignite change. (Sorry.) Reach for the possibilities of the new beginning. Before long, we’ll be cranking up the fireplace to snuggle up with a hot drink and a good book, whether Calculus or otherwise colorful, rich enough to satisfy a flock of sea gulls. Welcome back.



Dr. Douglas Norton  
Dept. of Mathematics and  
Statistics Chairperson

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## WELCOME BACK Students and Faculty!

Fall  
Semester  
Dates To  
Remember:

Oct. 7 (F)	Mid-Term
Oct. 10 (M)	Semester Recess
Oct. 17 (M)	Classes Resume
Oct. 21–23 (F-Su)	Homecoming
Oct 26 (W)	Registration Begins
Nov. 4–6 (F-Su)	Special Olympics
Nov. 22 (Tu)	Thanksgiving Recess after last class
Nov. 28 (M)	Classes Resume
Dec. 14–20 (W-Tu)	Final Examinations
Jan. 3 (Tu)	Final Grades Due (noon)

## *New Faculty Spotlight*



Nathan Corwin, PhD  
PhD, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2013)

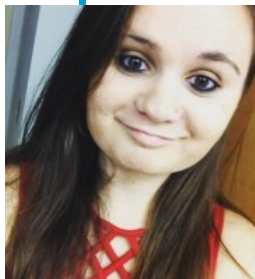
Nathan received his Masters Degree from the University of Oregon in 2005. His B.S. is from the University of Wisconsin – Madison from 2002. Nathan’s research interests are in geometric group theory – which is a fancy way of saying infinite groups. Prior to joining Villanova, Nathan spent the previous three years on the faculty at Rutgers University.

## *Student Internship Spotlight*



Anna Lake  
*Senior Math Major, Minors in Business and Spanish*

“I worked at Chiltern International, a clinical research company in KOP, this summer as a Biometrics Programming Intern. I got a lot of experience programming in SAS to create study data tabulation models, analysis dataset models, and other SAS outputs for clinical trials performed by pharmaceutical companies. The findings that my team and I produced would be used by the pharmaceutical company to analyze drug performance and could ultimately be sent to the FDA to determine drug efficacy and approval if the drug made it to phase 3 trials. I really enjoyed my experience working in statistical programming and would recommend it as a career path for anyone interested in statistics and the clinical research industry!”



Karolina Golabek  
*Senior Math and Finance Double Major*

"During the summer of 2016 I was an analyst at JP Morgan Chase in New York City, as part of the Finance Analyst Development Program. I worked on the Global Clearing Product Control team, which essentially deals with financial derivatives traded on the U.S. and global markets. As part of my long-term project, a London intern and I worked on a presentation that illustrated JPM's role across various global financial derivatives markets. On a daily basis, I ensured the integrity of the financial statements brought to me and adjusted them for any new estimates. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at JPM, particularly because as part of the FADP I was able to participate in various networking events, senior executive speaker series, a career fair, etc. I am very excited to join the firm full-time after I graduate in May 2017! I would recommend this program to anyone who wishes to learn more about various financial roles at a global firm!"

# Villanova Math Club

The officers of Math Club are excited to welcome returning and new Math Club members! This year, Math Club is under new leadership:

Co-President - **Anna Lake** (senior Math Major)  
 Co-President - **Karolina Golabek** (senior Math Major)  
 Treasurer - **Elizabeth Leonard** (sophomore Math Major)  
 Social Chair - **Ronald Berna** (sophomore Math Major)  
 Social Chair - **Meghan Carlock** (sophomore Math Minor)

Everyone is welcome to join Math Club - Math Majors and Minors, Liberal Arts and Sciences students, Business students, Engineering students, graduate students. **If you love math, are interested in it, need help with it, or simply want to meet new people**, then Math Club is the club for you!

Meetings will take place approximately every three weeks in the MLRC and will include snacks, discussions about classes and professors, as well as fun activities such as math-themed competitions. This year the Math Club is planning on organizing several events, for instance, **a professional development night, Quizzo nights, Teacher talks, Math in Movies night, Board game night, a T-shirt design contest, and more!**

For more information, contact any of the officers:

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## Mathematics Learning And Resource Center (MLRC)

**Location:** 211 Falvey Library

**Dates:** September 6– October 6  
 October 17– November 21  
 November 28– December 12

**Hours:** Sunday 6:30-9:00pm  
 Mon.-Thurs. 1:00-5:00pm  
 & 6:30-9:00pm

**Phone:** 610-519-MLRC (6572)

Check out our web page at [www.villanova.edu/mlrc](http://www.villanova.edu/mlrc) for more MLRC info regarding Villanova math course, tutoring schedules, math links, and MLRC email.



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