

# MSCS Major News

*Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science  
University of Illinois at Chicago*

**Inside this issue:**

Welcome Back	1
Congratulations	1
Scholarships & Awards	2
MSCS Math Club	2
Mathematical Sciences Learning Center	2

## Welcome Back!

As the Director of Undergraduate Studies in MSCS, I would like to welcome you back for fall classes. I hope you had a productive and fun summer. The Fall Semester will bring some important changes to the Department. Our new Mathematical Sciences Learning Center will begin operations on the 4th floor of SEO and will provide a great new resource for us. The revised Mathematics Major curriculum goes into effect. If you are a Math Major and have not changed to the new curriculum, please see an MSCS advisor.

This year we plan to continue our required advising. During the Fall, all MCS majors will be required to meet with an MSCS advisor before registering for the Spring semester. We encourage all



majors to see MSCS advisors before registering.

I hope you have a great semester and please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Charles Tier,  
Director of Undergraduate Studies

*"Descartes commanded the future from his study more than Napoleon from his throne."*

- Oliver Wendell Holmes

## Congratulations Graduates & Award Winners

**GRADUATES  
Summer 2004**

**Math:** Cheng Sok Heng, Jeffrey Stahler.

**MCS:** Yuichiro Kimura, Mengxiang Ye

**Fall 2004**

**Math:** Deanne De Leon, Danika Kopanke, Christopher Mason, Nikola Vrskovy, Wan Yu

**MCS:** Edwin Calvache, Sepehr Evoghli, Kwan Fong, Constantin Kostadinov, Jin Li, Megan McKenzie, Katherine Oakes, Amit Patel, Hernan Sanchez, Miroslav Vitek

**SOR:** Jessica Davenport, Min Yu Xu, Ran Yu

**Spring 2005**

**Math:** Artem Akhmetov, Sarah Ando, Aleksandra Derda, Fred Drucek, David Franczyk, Dorothy Gach, Marcy Robertson, Mihir Shah, James Shuler,

Samuel Toh, Christopher Trcka, Rocelia Viramontes

**MCS:** Akyla Catlin, Yong Chen, Jian Choy, Jonathan Chua, Brian Flores, Jean-Baptiste Jean-Jacques, Nickolas Joseph, Brian Kim, Yangtae Kim, Fang Lee, Je Lee, Pritika Patel, Samin Sayed, Emily Stoddard, Esteban Urdiales, Shareef Yousef, Meir Zwanziger

**SOR:** Aaron Beharelle, Lei Fan, Daniel Ricchio

**Louis Hay Award:**

Yelena Shagall

**Cathy Hill Cawthon Award:**

Asma Arayan

**Herbert Alexander Award:**

Vladimir Skavysch

**Phi Beta Kappa:**

Karen Adlin, Michelle Baum

Do you remember these kids' names?



Which one published the mathematics paper, *Percolation and Gibbs states multiplicity for ferromagnetic Ashkin-Teller models on  $Z^2$* ?

*Do not worry about your problems with mathematics, I assure you mine are far greater.*  
- Albert Einstein

Kevin and Winnie were the characters in "The Wonder Years" from 1988 to 1993. See Danica McKellar's web page the full text of her published proof. [www.danicamckellar.com](http://www.danicamckellar.com)

## Scholarships & Awards

MSCS students are eligible for numerous awards and scholarships. Students must apply for them. For example, there are MSCS awards:

- **The Herb Alexander Award**
- **Louise Hay Award**
- **Cathy Hill Cawthon Award**

Applications are available in SEO 322 in January, and are submitted there.

Additional information about other scholarships and awards is available from the Scholarship Association for UIC (104 Grant Hall) at

[www.uic.edu/orgs/scholar/awards.htm](http://www.uic.edu/orgs/scholar/awards.htm) and the office of Special Scholarship Programs at [www.uic.edu/depts/oa/spp/awards](http://www.uic.edu/depts/oa/spp/awards).

A few examples that may be of particular interest to you:

- **Donald and Patricia Langenberg Award**- \$500.
- **Association Award** 10 awards of \$1,000 each.
- **John E. and Marguerite B. Corbally Award**- \$500.

Applications are due on February 11, 2005 in room 104 Grant Hall.

## MSCS Math Club

The Math Club provides a wonderful opportunity for MSCS majors to connect with other students with similar interests. The Club is open to any UIC major and will be meeting on Wednesdays at 3:00. Below is a description of activities during 2004-2005.

The Math Club had a year filled with interesting presentations from faculty and staff on mathematics related topics. The Club started the fall 2004 semester with two informational presentations for MSCS majors. The first session was called "Mathematical Careers: What to do with a Bachelors Degree in Math" given by Michael Hatcher, Assistant Director, UIC Career Services. The second session was about applying to graduate school given by Kari Dueball, Assistant Director of Graduate Studies. At later meetings, faculty was invited to give brief lectures on topics in mathematics. A list of the faculty and

their topic include Professor Marker on Continuum Hypothesis; Professor Wood on Differential Geometry; Professor Agol on Markoff Equation; Professor Teitelbaum on Trees; Rishi Nath on Groups; and Professor Srinivasan on Mathematical Proofs.

The Club also participated in the Putnam National Competitions in December, 2004 lead by Professor Bernstein. The Club held weekly problem-solving workshops in preparation for the ISMAA competition lead by Professor Tangora in April 2005. The Club sent two teams to Knox College for the ISMAA competition. Team 1 placed sixth and Team 2 placed fourteenth.

If you would like to join the Math Club or want more information, contact the president, David Ilyaguyev. [ilyaguyev@juno.com](mailto:ilyaguyev@juno.com).

## Mathematical Sciences Learning Center

One of the most exciting developments in MSCS this Fall is the Grand Opening of the new Mathematical Sciences Learning Center on the fourth floor of SEO (where the math library used to be).

The center is in the process of being beautifully renovated and will become THE place to work on math outside of class. The center will have a wireless network (and laptops for check-out), flexible seating, comfy chairs, and good blackboards. The center will be open every day -- no more waiting to get your questions answered!

It will host peer-led study groups at all levels of the curriculum, from remedial math up through advanced courses, as well as tutoring and computer-aided learning support. Please stop in and check it out.

### **JOBS:**

The center needs MSCS majors who want to earn some money to work as peer tutors -- read all about the application process at <http://www.math.uic.edu/undergrad/mslc/employment.html>, and get your application in now!