Department of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee

Spring 2020 Department Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 3

A Message from the Department Chair, Professor Suzanne Boyd

Professor Suzanne Boyd

Welcome back! I was happy to see several members of our department (faculty, lecturers and GTAs) at the CETL teaching and learning symposium on Jan 9. I am sure a number of members of our department attended the Joint Math Meetings in Denver this January.

I hope everyone, no matter your winter break plans, has arrived back refreshed and charged up for the term.

I want to take this opportunity to say **THANK YOU** for all of the great work and learning you all did last fall (and over the uwinterim). Successes and failures are all great learning experiences - I certainly had several of each as a new department chair!

Here are just two of many many examples of recent departmental successes:

- Jon Kahl's uwinterim México study abroad program ("Air Pollution and Ancient Cultures") just finished its 10th year. This year's participants include 3 atmo majors.

Important Dates

Jan. 21: First day of classes

Jan. 27: Math Department's last day to add a class

Feb. 17: Last day to drop without a "W" on record

Apr. 5: Last day to drop

Mar. 15 - 22: Spring Break

May 7: Last day of classes

May 8: Study day

May 9 & 11-16: Final examination period

May 21: Grade Deadline (4:30 pm)

Fall 2019 Course Evaluations

Fall 2019 instructors interested in viewing their course evaluations can email **math-staff@uwm.edu**.

Please include the course and section numbers in your request.

Scheduled Math

- A paper that our Visiting Assistant Professor Burns Healy wrote with two UWM undergraduates was just accepted to the Mathematica Journal.

As chair, I often end up representing the department at meetings with campus faculty, students, parents, administrators and people from other universities and businesses in Milwaukee and in Wisconsin. I would love to stay more informed about the variety of accomplishments we are making every semester. Due to formal approvals necessary, I do see what grants people apply for, and when they travel, but that's about it.

So - please take a moment, whenever a research paper is accepted, you receive a particularly flattering student evaluation comment, you earn some kind of award, your student gives a poster or presentation at a conference, etc., drop me an email describing this in a few sentences. You can make the subject "kudos" or "humble brag" .

I AM NOT TOO BUSY to read such emails! I would love to get 4-5 per day (there are over 100 of us after all) and I anticipate they may become the high point of my day. I would love to have things off the top of my head so I can humble brag to the Provost about the great work we're doing, because I know we're doing it! If you send me a note of an accomplishment that you want me to know, but would prefer to be kept private/name excluded, please indicate that in the email, otherwise I'll be posting it who knows where. I think it's important that we increase our visibility on campus!

With that being said - keep up the amazing work, and remember we are a large and friendly community. So, if you do struggle with something or experience an unexpected failure, try to make it a learning experience (just as we ask our students to do with mathematics), and I am sure you can find someone to chat with about it - I am always willing to fill that role, and of course those won't be publicly posted like the brags.

Finally, please mark your calendars now - **the annual Marden lecture will be given by Professor Ridgway Scott of the University of Chicago on Thursday, April 9**, and he will deliver the Marden colloquium on Friday, April 10.

Best,
Suzanne Boyd

Colloquium Talks

Friday, Feb. 28, 2020:

Dr. Tomas Bzdusek

"Mathematics of Topological Insulators and Semimetals"

Friday, Mar. 6, 2020:

Dr. Robert Skeel

"Fast N-Body Calculations with Periodic Boundary Conditions"

Friday, Mar. 13, 2020:

Dr. Harsh Jain

"Practical Identifiability of Parameters: A Tale with Two Endings"

Friday, April 10, 2020:

Dr. Ridgway Scott

Title: TBA

Friday, Apr. 24, 2020:

Dr. Henry Boateng

"Periodic Coulomb Tree Method: An Alternative To Parallel Particle Mesh Ewald"

View upcoming **events** on our website!

Graduate Student Colloquium Series

Reminders for Instructors

Spring 2020 Policies and Procedures Instructor Memo

If you haven't done so yet, please take a look at the **Policies & Procedures Memo**.

Class Coverage Procedure

If you are unable to teach a class session during the semester, you must email your course coordinator or department chair as soon as possible and notify them of your situation and discuss coverage of the material missed and/or having another instructor teach your class.

If class will be canceled, email the **MathSci office** as soon as possible, and they will post a sign outside of your classroom door.

You are expected to email your class on any updates to the teaching schedule. You can email your students/class roster through PAWS.

Syllabi Dropbox

Please submit your Spring 2020 course syllabi to the **Mathematical Sciences SharePoint Dropbox** by **Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 at 12 pm**.

Your file name should be as follows: *Course Number-Section Number_Instructor Last Name_Spring 2020*

If you are unable to submit your syllabi to the Dropbox, please instead email it directly to **Shelby** or **Hailey**. Be sure to include a description of the problem that you've encountered, if applicable.

Online Request Forms

ROOM REQUEST FORM:

Please use when you need to use a classroom or computer lab on campus and you do not already have a standing reservation (i.e. for a class). Office staff will receive your request and contact you via email with a confirmation.

Please contact **Shelby** if you have questions.

EVENT REQUEST FORM:

The Graduate Student Colloquium will be meeting this Spring semester— time and frequency TBA.

Be sure to watch your emails for more information!

Contact **John Byrum** or **Marco Vaassen** if you're interested in speaking or organizing!

Front Office Hours

Monday-Friday:

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Contact

Reach out to **math-staff@uwm.edu** with any questions or requests!

Like us on Facebook!

Click the icon below to keep up with Department events and information!

Join our LinkedIn

Please use for all Departmental sponsored events, talks, etc. This form is **required** in order for you to receive Departmental funding and/or promotional support for guest speakers, graduate dissertations/theses, seminars, colloquia, and so on.

Please note that it is mandatory that event forms be sumbitted at least one week prior to the event. Without the proper amount of time, we will be unable to accomodate your request.

If you require special use of a Departmental or campus owned classroom or computer lab, you must first complete the **Room Request Form** and receive reservation confirmation from the main office.

Please contact **Shelby** or **Hailey** if you have questions.

GRADUATE STUDENT ROOM & EVENT REQUEST FORM:

FOR GRADUATE STUDENT USE ONLY: Please use for dissertation defenses, thesis/project defenses, and/or graduate colloquiua.

Additionally, please contact **Katie** if you are planning to graduate this Spring.

TRAVEL INFORMATION REQUEST FORM:

Use for any requests involving travel.

Please contact **Katie** with questions.

Math Tutoring Services

Spring 2020 Tutoring, Bolton Homework Lab, and Calculus Workshop schedules (and corresponding information) are posted on our department website **here**!

Group!

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