
Women Doing Math

A program to encourage women to create mathematics.

Newsletter

February 2017

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Problem Challenge

Fellow Mathematicians,

The Women Doing Math (WDM) has had a very successful run during the Fall 2016 and we have many exciting events planned for the Spring 2017 semester.

In the Fall 2016 we had the pleasure of hosting three wonderful visitors: Irene M. Gamba, Ivelisse Rubio and Monika Farkash. In addition to excellent talks in their respective areas of expertise, all the speakers were very candid in sharing their career experiences.

Also during the Fall 2016 we had two challenges in the Problem-Solving Contest, and now we have three winners in a list that we hope will continue growing during the Spring 2017. So far, we congratulate Taylor Baumgard, Sarah Gibbons and Maddie Werran as winners!

The visiting speakers for the Spring 2017 will be Linda Lesniak and Leslie Hogben. Both of them are two prominent mathematicians in Graph Theory and Linear Algebra, respectively. Their visit is a very exciting opportunity to meet two internationally acclaimed mathematicians who have experience communicating their advanced research to undergraduates. Both of them have written highly praised undergraduate textbooks in their research areas.

We will also continue the Problem-Solving Contest. As a matter of fact, Prof. Lesniak has prepared a worksheet of problems she would like students to solve prior to her talk. With many problems come many prizes! Keep checking our website periodically and looking for our emails.

Hope you can join us for the Spring events,

Dr. Daniela Ferrero
Program Director

Upcoming speakers



Dr. Linda Lesniak has held professorships at Louisiana State University, Western Michigan University and Drew University. She has written over 80 research articles in graph theory and has co-authored well-known graph theory books such as “Graphs & Digraphs” (CRC Press, 6th ed. 2015). She serves on several mathematical journal editorial boards and travels extensively giving mathematical talks. Meeting and mentoring students has always been an important part of her life as a mathematician.



Leslie Hogben is the Dio Lewis Holl Chair in Applied Mathematics and a Professor of Mathematics at Iowa State University, where she is also a Courtesy Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering. She is also the Associate Director for Diversity at the American Institute of Mathematics, San Jose, CA. She is the author of the book “Handbook of Linear Algebra” (CRC Press, 1st.ed. 2007 and 2nd.ed. 2014) and a co-editor of the book “Recent Trends in Combinatorics” (Springer, 2016).

Association for Women in Mathematics

A Texas State AWM Chapter has been created. This means wonderful opportunities to all students. Among other benefits, students joining the Chapter receive a free membership to the AWM.

Message from the President of the Texas State AWM Chapter

Do you want to be involved in a math organization but do not know which one? Would you like to participate in something new and fresh?

Become part of the creation of the Association of Women in Mathematics (AWM) organization at Texas State University! We are a small group of students (male and female, math major and non-math majors) who are hoping to network with each other and participate in fun events throughout the semester together! This organization is relatively new so it can be whatever YOU want it to be.

If you have any questions or would like to join AWM, please contact Hailey Stirneman, hms54@txstate.edu

Current and future events

- **Talk by Linda Lesniak:**

Date: Wednesday March 8, 2017

Time: 11am-12.15pm

Place: TBD

- **Ask career questions for the speaker:**

Ever wonder about the career possibilities that a degree in mathematics opens up? Want to know how to find the best graduate program for you? Do you have troubles deciding what area of mathematics you want to focus on? Do you want to know more about research opportunities for undergraduates? Submit your questions to the seminar speakers. Questions will be answer at the end of the seminar, and the student who submits the best question (chosen by the speaker) will be invited to a free lunch with the speaker.

Information: http://womendoingmath.wp.txstate.edu/?page_id=212

- **Lunch with the speaker:**

After the seminar, the speaker will have lunch with a group of up to ten female students, graduate or undergraduate, majoring in mathematics. If you want an opportunity to earn a free lunch with an outstanding mathematician all you need to do is to submit your information in time.

Information: http://womendoingmath.wp.txstate.edu/?page_id=267

- **Problem contest:**

The third challenge for our problem contest is open! Join efforts with your peers and make sure you enter the challenge. All students who submit correct answers for the worksheet will be recognized with awards and prizes. Each member of the team that submits the best solution will win a signed copy of the book “Graphs & Digraphs” by Linda Lesniak.

Deadline: March 5, 2017, 11.59pm

Information: http://womendoingmath.wp.txstate.edu/?page_id=336

Opportunities

- **Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM):**

Texas State students graduate and undergraduate can sign up for a free student membership. More information about SIAM: <http://siam.org/>

We are also interested in forming a Texas State Chapter of SIAM. More information about SIAM Students Chapters: <http://siam.org/students/memberships.php>.

If you are interested in being an officer or a member of the SIAM Texas State Chapter, email us at WomenDoingMath@txstate.edu.

- **Summer Undergraduate Research:**

Below there is a link to a webpage in the American Mathematical Society website that contains links to REU programs active during the summer season. Be aware that most application deadlines fall in February – March. In order to apply you will need recommendation letters, so start preparing your application right now!

<http://www.ams.org/programs/students/emp-reu>

The following link is to a list of summer research programs for undergraduates and others, and it includes a brief description of each program.

<https://sites.google.com/site/mathreuprograms/>

- **Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE):**

The EDGE Program, funded primarily by the National Science Foundation, is designed to strengthen the ability of women and minority students to successfully complete graduate programs in the mathematical sciences.

Increased diversity in the mathematics community will ultimately strengthen U.S. competitiveness in mathematics and science and allow people from all backgrounds and cultures to thrive, advance, and contribute to the profession.

Among many activities, there is an EDGE summer program for women who are currently applying to Ph.D. programs in mathematics. Check this link:

<http://www.edgeforwomen.org/summer-session/>

Problem Solving - Challenge 3

Problem

Prof. Lesniak proposed a spreadsheet with many exciting problems! The problems were designed to help students to benefit from her talk.

You can download the problems here:

http://womendoingmath.wp.txstate.edu/?page_id=336

Prizes

Each member of the winning team will receive a signed copy of the book “Graphs & Digraphs” by Linda Lesniak in addition to the following prizes.



Students submitting a correct solution will receive a certificate and will choose one of the items above.

Deadline: March 5, 2017, 11.59pm

- Rules:**
1. The contest is open to all female undergraduate and graduate students at Texas State.
 2. Solutions must be submitted in teams of 2 or 3 students.
 3. A team can have at most one graduate student.
 4. A student can be a member of at most one team.

Submission: Submit your answers by email using the following instructions in

http://womendoingmath.wp.txstate.edu/?page_id=125