

Math Majors Newsletter

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1. If you plan to go to graduate school Ian Stuart's book "Letters to a young mathematician" is a very good source of information about it.
2. <http://www.gcschool.org/pages/program/Abacus.html> has a nice collection of challenging problems for middle school students.
3. On Saturday March 28, 9:30 - 12:30, you can participate in the third University of Rochester math olympiad. This is a math competition that started two years ago. Last year more than 60 students from colleges in the Rochester area plus Cornell, Syracuse and Buffalo took part in this competition. This included 5 students from SUNY Brockport. Two of them got 10 points (out of 40). The competition will take place on campus. If you are interested send an e-mail to Dr. Prajitura to register and you'll get a copy of the problems from the first two olympiads.
4. Michael Moschen is a juggler who uses a lot of math to create his acts. "I don't think in the English language. I think in geometry. That's my first language" said Moschen in a recent interview in Math Horizons. Check out some of his acts at <http://www.michaelmoschen.com/press.html>
5. At <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123119236117055127.html> you can read about the best and the worst jobs in U.S.
6. How many moves do you need to solve the Rubik cube? If you ever tried to solve the cube you may be surprised to find out that no matter where you start you never need more than 25 moves. There is a certain number such that starting at any configuration you do not need more than that number of moves to solve the cube. The exact value of this number is not known yet. It is known that the number is at most 25 and at least 20. You can read more about this at: <http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg19926681.800-cracking-the-last-mystery-of-the-rubiks-cube.html>
7. On April 4 you can attend the spring meeting of the Seaway section of the Mathematical Association of America. This meeting will be hosted by RIT. You can register (at no cost) at http://www.rit.edu/cos/math/Conferences/MAA/Spring_2009/registration_1.php by March 6.
8. WANTED: A name for this newsletter. Send your proposals to Dr. Prajitura.
9. WANTED: Students to work on research projects.