

In this issue: job opportunities, Q&A with your professors about Grad School, and some miscellaneous news.

Jobs, Opportunities, & Links

24th Annual Cumberland Valley Consortium (CVC) Job & Internship Fair, Wednesday, February 13: 10am- 3pm, Eisenhower Conference Center, 2634 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg, PA. For more information and to view a list of participating employers visit www.collegecentral.com/cumberland

Central MD College Career Fair Tuesday, February 19: 10am - 3:30pm, Towson Center, Towson University, Baltimore MD. 175+ employers expected to attend. For more information visit:

<http://asp.symplicity.com/mdcareerfair/index.php>

Van service is available to both events. Contact the [Career Center](#) at 201 447 5202 to reserve a space.

REU: Research Experiences for Undergraduates. These are opportunities available to students who wish to do some research during the summer, students receive a stipend and their expenses are covered. There are possibilities available all over the country. The duration of these varies from one to 6 weeks. . A complete list of REU in [Mathematics](#), and a list for [Computer Science](#) are available on the NSF website where you will find all the details.

Georgetown University: Masters of Science Program in Biostatistics with tracks in Bioinformatics and/or Epidemiology for Fall 2008. Application deadline is June 30, 2008.

Master of Science Program in Mathematics and Statistics. Deadline March 3, 2008 to be considered for a scholarship, May 15, 2008 otherwise.

More information on both programs is available [here](#)

This is a [link](#) to an interesting article on [how](#) to study mathematics.

For two opportunities to put together [Math](#) and [\\$\\$\\$](#) scroll down to Miscellaneous.

Grad School Q&A

If you think you are not ready for Grad School then why not applying for the [Summer Math Institute](#) at Cornell University, you will be paid while attending a

course designed to prepare you for the rigor of Grad School. The course will run June 7, up to August 2. Everyone is welcomed to apply even graduating seniors. Another such opportunity is the [RISE](#) program at Rutgers University. This research program will also prepare students to take the GRE and Subject Tests while performing research in a variety of topics. The program runs from June 2, up to July 25.

Here are some answers from some of your professors to a few questions you might have about graduate school. If you need any help in making this decision you can contact any of us, your professors, we will all be very happy to try to clarify any doubts you might have.

Q: First of all, is it “worth” it?

A: It was worth it for me, but you really have to love math in order to do it. It's a ton of work, but you'll end up learning a lot. In general, you get out of it what you put into it, and you have to be willing to put a lot into it. (Heinold)

A: If you want to go into academia, yes. If you plan to stay in industry, it's not as important. A master's would probably help with advancement. (Weiss)

Q: Now or later?

A: Now is better than later. (Petrelli)

A: I'd encourage sooner, so you don't forget everything. (Weiss)

Q: Should I get a master or a PhD?

A: Depends. For a PhD you really have to love math. You're talking about 4-7 years of your life doing math. Once you finish, you have a lot of more options. With a masters degree you can teach at a community college, but not at most 4-year schools. (Heinold)

A: If you want a job in Academia then a PhD, otherwise it depends as many masters program give you all the tools you need for many jobs. (Petrelli)

Q: So, what is important for admission?

A: Obviously a strong transcript. However, if you're going for a PhD, it's important to show enthusiasm for a particular research area, and even better for the work the professors at the school are doing in that research area. (Weiss)

A: It depends on the program, but you must have a good GPA, a good GRE, a good subject test score and your transcripts should show you have taken all you could! Many schools place a lot of importance on undergraduate research, for many PhD programs is even necessary. (Petrelli)

Q: Which courses should I take before grad school?

A: In CS, any course that's more theoretical than application-oriented would be good. Here that includes Theory of Computation, Algorithms, and Operating Systems. However, if there's a particular area that excites you, make sure you take a course in that area! (Weiss)

A: Real Analysis, Algebraic Structures and Diff Eq are a must in this order. Taking any course that is offered will not only prepare you better but it will give you an idea about which branch of Math you might want to specialize in. (Petrelli)

Q: How should I prepare for GRE and subject tests?

A: Get one of the prep books and do problems out of it. (Butler)

A: I didn't prepare for the subject tests and I ended up with a pretty bad score. Go back and review the highlights of all of your courses. Linear algebra and calculus are especially good to review. (Heinold)

Q: Which university should I pick?

A: Lots of schools have good CS programs. Go to one which is doing research in an area you enjoy. (Weiss)

A: Lehigh University. They had a friendly group of graduate students there. Other schools can be more competitive. (Heinold)

A: Find what you're interested in, and look for a school that has a good reputation in that field. Try to get into a good school but leave yourself other options by applying to some "secondary" school. (Petrelli)

Q: Who pays for it?

A: Often, they pay you and provide tuition remission. (Butler)

A: You want them to pay for it. Try to get a teaching or research assistantship. The latter are harder to come by. The former usually involves grading and/or teaching a class or recitation sections. It's also possible to get a job and get your company to pay for it, but most of my fellow graduate students had teaching assistantships. (Heinold)

A: Most programs have sufficient grant money to pay for tuition and a small stipend. Some employers will pay for you to go to school while you work for them. (Weiss)

Now, where do you start? [Here](#) is an extensive list of programs by state with plenty of details.

Direct links to some programs: [Carnegie Mellon U](#), [Clemson U](#), [Lehigh U](#), [U of Maryland](#), [Georgetown U](#), [Penn State U](#).

Miscellaneous

From the Department:

❶ Prof. Scott **Weiss** is a dad again. Early on November 6, Molly was born. She joins Scott, wife Susan, and her brother Andy. Congratulations to all.

❷ Dr. Melanie **Butler** is holding a professional development workshop for in-service and pre-service mathematics teachers this spring. The workshop is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 19th from 8:30-12:00, and the tentative topic is cooperative learning in mathematics. Any Math major or Secondary Ed major who is interested in teaching after leaving the Mount is welcomed to apply.

Participants will receive a \$50 stipend and breakfast. Space is limited. More information will be forthcoming (or you can contact [Dr. Butler](#)).

📧 Dr. Luca **Petrelli** is applying for a grant for undergraduate research to be conducted here at the Mount during the next Academic year. He is soliciting students to apply to be part of the research team. To apply you must be a sophomore or a junior during AY 2008-09 and be willing to spend about 10 hours a week doing research. Each student will receive a \$2000 stipend plus an allowance to travel to some conferences during the year. Email [Dr. Petrelli](#) if you are interested, or for more details.

Useful links: [Association for Computing Machinery](#), [American Mathematical Society](#), [American Statistical Association](#), [Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics](#), [Mathematical Association of America](#), [Society Of Actuaries](#), [National Council of Teachers of Mathematics](#), [Pi Mu Epsilon Honor society](#)