

The Comet Accelerates

The Putnum exam is the most difficult math exam in existence. Each college and university can only have three competitors. At MIT, over a thousand students compete for those three positions. Even with the competition involving only elite students, approximately half of the competitors score 0 points. Math Team member Jasen (The Comet) Scaramazza competed for Rowan this year. He scored in the top 24% of the nation. Amazingly, he is only a junior. His score is unheard of for juniors.

But there is more. The Barry Goldwater Scholarship was created by the U.S. Congress. Each college and university can nominate four candidates. There are only approximately 300 winners. Winners are selected on the basis of merit only. The only criterion is that the candidate demonstrates the highest probability for significant research results during his lifetime. Jasen is the first math major in the history of Rowan University to win a Goldwater Scholarship. He was nominated by Professor Thomas Osler.

This semester, Jasen is studying abroad. He will be returning to Rowan from Paris in the fall. Undoubtedly, he will once again be the first translator of some of the Euler papers. (*see article below*)



Jasen Scaramazza in front of la Bastille monument in Paris. The Comet lives right down the street from this monument.

Alumnus is a Huge Success in Business

Bill Monos (class of 1971) was not only a fine math major at Glassboro State but he was also the president of the Math Club.

He taught briefly at Delran High School where he was also the wrestling coach. He discovered that teaching really wasn't his cup of tea and entered the business world. That decision resulted in an outstanding career.

Bill worked his way into sales. In his own words: "I was one of those engineers who could talk to customers." Today, he is the "Director of Sales and Worldwide Business Development" for Service Point. He has lived in Paris for the last ten years. Among other things, he is responsible for the development of multi global client portfolios. Bill

has been a European Director, an International Marketing Director, and a member of the Board of Directors for the Ontario French Chamber of Commerce.

While at Glassboro State, Bill and some of his math major friends carried Professor Howe's VW to the top of the Bunch Hall steps. However, that has all been forgiven. On April 4, Bill and his family invited Jasen Scaramazza to their home for his first home-cooked meal since he arrived in Paris. They discovered that Jasen's mother attended Delran High School while Bill was teaching there. Bill found a yearbook containing both a picture of Jasen's mom and a picture of Bill as a young teacher. It's a small world. (*see article above*)



Bill Monos and his family on the Pont des Arts. This crosses the Seine very close to the center of Paris and is within walking distance of Chez Manos. The little locks on the pont are put there by lovers who throw the keys into the Seine.

“Top Secret Rosies” Gala

On Friday, April 29 at Bozarth Auditorium, Producer and Director LeAnn Erickson of Temple University will screen her documentary “The Top Secret Rosies.” There will be a reception in the lobby at 5:30 p.m. The screening will be at 6 p.m. and there will be a question and answer session following the screening.

LeAnn Erickson has won international recognition in numerous video-film festivals. For example, she won the Best Experimental: DaVinci Film and Video Festival in Corvallis, OR and the Gold Medal: Experimental Category in Colorado. Her work has appeared on



Top Secret Rosies, 2010. Producer Director, LeAnn Erickson.

National Public Television and the Bravo Network.

Beginning in 1941, the best young female mathematicians were given Top Secret classification. Their work involved differential equations as applied to non-trivial trajectory problems. They were also in charge of a mechanical device housed in the basement of the Moore School of Engineering at the University of

Pennsylvania called the Differential Analyzer. Once the Freedom of Information Act applied to top secret agents of WWII, it was discovered that the first six programmers for the world’s first computer, the ENIAC, were all Top Secret Rosies.

Two of the Rosies were twin sisters Shirley Melvin and Doris Polsky. After the war, Shirley



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A very young Emma Cortes with her grandmother Shirley and her Aunt Doris.

Rosies (cont'd)



Producer/Director LeAnn Ericson with *Top Secret Rosies* subjects at the National WWII Memorial, Washington, D.C.

and Doris began a real estate agency devoted to the racial integration of the first neighborhood in Philadelphia - a section of Mount Airy. They persisted and succeeded despite threats and harassment. This was in the early 1950's a full decade before the term "Civil Rights Movement" was even coined.

Emma Cortes, the president of the Physics Club, is Shirley Melvin's granddaughter. Emma and Professor Howe will be the hosts of the event. Strong turnout is expected from Women's Studies, Computer Science, Math, Documentary classes, Engineering, and Africana Studies. There may well be quite a surprise at the screening.



Siobahn Young models the Math Team jacket awarded for special accomplishments.

NEWS AND NOTES

Professor Hieu Nguyen was awarded the 2011 Sister Stephanie Award for meritorious service to the New Jersey section of the MAA.



Professor Janet Caldwell was the lead author and co-author of two recently released texts published by the NCTM for Elementary School Mathematics.



Jennifer Hoxworth won the James Shafer Medallion Award in Mathematics.



The two math teams entered in the Garden State Competition were: Dave Rowan, Emily Dietrich and Jennifer Hoxworth and Dan Urbano, Malik Ahmed and DJ Evans



John Kelly won the Hoxworth and Hoxworth Scholarship



Jasen Scaramazza won the Outstanding Junior Mathematics Major Scholarship



The John Sooy Award was won by Holli Brewer



Jennifer Hoxworth won the CLAS Dean's Outstanding Math Scholar Award



Jennifer Hoxworth was named as a student speaker at the Commencement, 2011 ceremony

Trivia Corner

Last Issue's Answer:



This lecture auditorium in the basement of Bunce Hall was the first home of the Math Department. At the time, it looked much different. There were no steps. The Professors were separated by tiny glassed in cubicles. The first with the right answer was Kathy Genzano.

Trivia Question

Kathy's graduation class was withheld on purpose. Kathy was a member of the first class of teachers at Glassboro State College who majored in mathematics. Our trivia question this issue is:

*What year was that?
(answer next issue)*

New Rowan Foundation Accounts

We have opened three new Rowan Foundation accounts: The John Sooy Award, the Math Team, and the Math Department. We already have a Junior Scholarship account that has regular donors and is well funded. Donations do not need to be dramatic in order to have a large impact. Just like Girl Scout cookies, we can make a small purchase, know it is going to a good cause and forget about it a week later.

For example, if 50 alumni each wrote a check for \$5.00 to Rowan Foundation with the memo stating "Math Team," the math team could afford another honorarium for a "Careers in Math" seminar talk. In any event, all alumni will continue to receive this newsletter so that they stay informed about what their department is doing. Thanks for your support.

Math Team Excels in Worldwide MCM Competition

The Math Team of Jackie Huynh, Jennifer Hoxworth and Malik Ahmed competed in the Mathematical Contest in Modeling this year against 2,775 teams. They earned the "Meritorius Winner" category putting them in the top 15% in the world. On the "A" problem, only three teams from the USA scored higher. Our team beat the teams from MIT, Brown, Tufts, The University of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins, Princeton, The U. S. Air Force Academy, Harvard and Duke to name just a few.

Wall of Fame

The Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching and Advising sends a letter to each member of a graduation class asking them to nominate a professor who had a great impact on them here at Rowan. A plaque is maintained in the Faculty Center of all winners. This constitutes the Wall of



Fame. This year, three members of the Math Department were elected to the Wall Of Fame. They are Professor Chris Lacke, Professor Marlena Herman and Professor Tom Osler. Any current student or alumnus who has had one of these profs understands this remarkable achievement.