

## MathFest 2004

Several students in the Honors Program in Mathematics accompanied faculty members Dr. Bob Rogers and Dr. Joseph Straight to MathFest 2004, the annual summer meeting of the Mathematical Association of America. The meeting took place August 11 – 14 in Providence, Rhode Island.

The students attending were: 2004 graduates **Ingrid** and **Rebecca Lindstrom**, seniors **Jacob McMillen**, **Jason Meidenbauer**, and **William Neris**, and junior **Whitney Kaczor**. Jacob gave a talk in the MAA student paper session on “The Mathematics of Juggling.” Will represented SUNY Fredonia at the annual meeting of Pi Mu Epsilon, the national honorary mathematics society, and presented the talk, “Solving Linear Recurrence Relations Using Generating Functions and Matrices.”

Dr. Rogers presented two papers, “Making Mathematics ‘Real World’ in a Reading and Writing Mathematics Course,” in the session on *Innovative Approaches in Mathematics Education*, and “Putting a Course Theme into Real Analysis,” in the session *Putting Some Analysis into Introductory Real Analysis*. Dr. Straight coordinated the minicourses for the conference, and attended meetings of the Minicourse Committee and the Committee on Sections, as well as the Section Officers’ Meeting.

The MathFest always features the Hedrick Lectures. Peter Sarnak of Princeton University expertly delivered this year’s lectures on the subject of Ramanujan Graphs. It was amazing to watch him weave a beautiful tapestry by bringing together results from several areas of mathematics, such as algebra, analysis, and combinatorics!

The group attended the following invited lectures: *The Mystery of the Missing Tangents*, by Steven Sigur of the Paideia School in Atlanta; *Mathematics and the Schools*, by Alan Schoenfeld of the University of California at Berkeley, and *How Computer Graphics is Changing Hollywood*, by Tony DeRose of Pixar Animation Studios. On Saturday afternoon, the students attended the MAA Student Workshop, *Topics in Fractal Geometry*, led by Benoit Mandelbrot of Yale University. This was followed by the MAA Student Lecture, *The Secret of Brunelleschi’s Cupola*, starring Mario Martelli of Claremont-McKenna College as the Italian cupola maestro Filippo Brunelleschi, who designed and oversaw the construction of the famous octagonal cupola of the cathedral in Florence. Finally, the group enjoyed *Isaac Newton: A Dramatic Lecture*, starring H.W. Straley as the brilliant yet enigmatic English mathematician and physicist.

See photos below!



*From left to right: Jason, H.W. Straley as Sir Isacc Newton, Ingrid, Whitney, and Becky*



*From left to right: Dr. Benoit Mandelbrot, the Father of Fractals, Becky, Whitney, Jason, and Ingrid*



*The Gang in Newport, RI.  
From left to right: Jason, Whitney, Ingrid, Dr. Rogers,  
Will, Jacob, and Becky.  
That's the Math Department yacht in the background. (Yea, right!)*



*The gang with "The Moose" at the Bugaboo Steak House in Warwick, RI.  
In front, left to right: Will, Ingrid, and Becky.  
In rear, left to right: Jacob, Dr. Straight, Whitney, Jason, and Dr. Rogers.*