

News • Briefs

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

Aug. 22, 2011

Contact: Ron Cole, director of
University Communications,
330-941-3285

- **YSU students excel again at national MathFest**
- **GEEKfest on Aug. 30 celebrates STEM**

YSU students excel again at national MathFest event

Youngstown State University students Mario Sracic of Hermitage, Pa., and Sepideh Khavari of Howland won awards at the Annual Summer Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America and Pi Mu Epsilon.

The meeting, commonly known as MathFest, was in Lexington, Ky., earlier this month. In all, nine undergraduate students in the YSU Department of Mathematics and Statistics attended the event and gave presentations. Over the past 10 years, YSU students have won, on average, more than three awards annually at MathFest, more than any other university or college.



YSU students who made presentations at MathFest in Lexington, Ky., earlier this month are, from the left, Tara Sansom, Sarah Ritchey, Sepideh Khavari, Dan Catello (kneeling), Michael Coates, Bradley Slabe, Mario Sracic, Matt Alexander and Jason Cooke. Sracic and Khavari won awards for their presentations. Read about it in this week's YSU News Briefs.

Sracic's presentation on Cryptology and Quantum Computing won an award for excellence in exposition and research sponsored by the American Mathematical Society and the American Statistical Association. Khavari's presentation titled "Time-to-Peak Response in Biological Systems" won the Janet L. Anderson Award for outstanding exposition and research in mathematical and computational biology sponsored by the MAA Special Interest Group in Mathematical Biology.

Also making presentations were Michael Coates of Niles, Jason Cooke of Youngstown, Daniel Catello of Youngstown, Tara Sansom of Sandy Lake, Pa., Bradley Slabe of Youngstown, Sarah Ritchey of Sharon, Pa., and Matthew Alexander of Espyville, Pa.

"The real value of participating in this and other conferences is to expose our students to the variety of mathematics that occurs throughout society and to encourage interactions with students and faculty from other Universities," said George Yates, associate professor of Mathematics and Statistics. "Another goal is to excite students about mathematics and involve them in professional activities that lead to a lifetime of learning."

Faculty attending the MathFest event included Yates, Doug Faires, Nathan Ritchey, Angela Spalsbury and Tom Wakefield. Faculty who advised students on their projects include Ritchey, Yates, Tom Smotzer, Eric Wingler and David Pollack.

GEEKfest on Aug. 30 celebrates STEM

The Office of Associate Degree and Tech Prep Programs at Youngstown State University is sponsoring its second annual GEEKfest 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 30 in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center on the YSU campus.

GEEKfest is a celebration of all things STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics – and is designed to educate YSU students and the community by highlighting and celebrating the creative and exciting world of STEM. In addition to showcasing many of the YSU STEM and other academic programs and activities, GEEKFest will feature innovative regional businesses and their contributions to new technologies, e.g., Best Buy, Greenwood Chevrolet, Notify Technology Corp., Parker Hannifin, via680 LLC and the Youngstown Business Incubator/Taft Technology Center.

Festivities will include games such as a Geek Chic Fashion Extravaganza, planetarium presentations, potato cannon demonstrations, video game tournaments, vendor and faculty/student/corporate demonstrations and exhibits, appearance by the Geek Squad, contests, give-a-ways, and a grand prize raffle for a Kindle.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Arlene Floyd at 330-941-2333 or e-mail afloyd@ysu.edu.