

math NEWS

The future of MathSoc is in your hands!

Vote on November 2nd and 3rd!

Note: election day subject to change due to logistical issues.

<p>PRESIDENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Novikova, Nadia<input type="checkbox"/> Pidcock, Sarah	<p>VICE PRESIDENT ACTIVITIES & SERVICES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Charlesworth, Ian<input type="checkbox"/> Erkaya, Selin<input type="checkbox"/> Karel, Joycelin
<p>VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Hristov, Niky<input type="checkbox"/> Jacob, Ajnu<input type="checkbox"/> Tharmalingam, Piraveena	<p>VICE PRESIDENT FINANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Finkelshtein, Rami<input type="checkbox"/> Patel, Kumar



Volume 111, Issue 3^{1/2}
Thursday, October 29th, 2009

Also inside:

Federation of Students referenda on funding for Sound FM, the Health Services Extension, and the Student Services Complex.



CRO Sez

Hi Everyone!!! Your CRO here just to let you know that elections are coming up soon for Winter 2010 Mathsoc Executive positions.

Some of you may be wondering, "What is a CRO?" Well CRO stands for Chief Recruitment Officer, and I am responsible for recruiting First Year/Class Representatives for MathSoc Council as well as getting Executives for MathSoc. I am also responsible for running any elections that are necessary, which they are for all 4 Executive positions this time around. Vice President Academics, Vice President Finance, Vice President Activities and Services and President are the 4 positions that are open for elections.

The way the Executive election process works is we announce that nominations for the positions are open and people hand in forms with their name, what position they would like and 10 endorsers. After the nomination period is over, the campaign period begins where candidates try to get people to vote for them by explaining how they are the best for the job. This is the stage that we are currently at. Then comes election day where you the students of the math faculty votes for who you would like to be elected for a position. Then counting is done and winners declared. In the event of a tie is the only time the CRO gets a vote so I like to think that I have the most powerful vote ;P

This is my first term as CRO and there is a lot of dependency on me because I am responsible for getting the people that will be running MathSoc. All in all, being CRO has been an interesting experience and I have learned a great deal about the election procedure and polices doing it.

I would like to leave off by reminding everyone to vote on election day as well as wishing all the candidates good luck with their campaigns and on election day.

Andre Magalhães
MathSoc CRO F09
cro@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

ISSN 0705—0410

mathNEWS is normally a fortnightly publication funded by and responsible to the undergraduate math students of the University of Waterloo, as represented by the Mathematics Society of the University of Waterloo, hereafter referred to as MathSoc. *mathNEWS* is editorially independent of MathSoc. Content is the responsibility of the *mathNEWS* editors; however, any opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of MathSoc or *mathNEWS*. Current and back issues of *mathNEWS* are available electronically via the World Wide Web at <http://www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/>. Send your correspondence to: *mathNEWS*, MC3046, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1, or to userid.mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca on the Internet.

This special edition of *mathNEWS* was created for the specific purpose of covering the Winter 2010 Executive Elections. This newspaper is not affiliated with, nor does it endorse, any of the candidates running for any office. Questions about the election should be forwarded to the Chief Returning Officer at userid.cro@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca.

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 2.5 Canada License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.5/ca/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 559 Nathan Abbott Way, Stanford, California 94305, USA. Terms may be renegotiated by contacting the editors.

mathNEWS Elections Editor: Joe Collins

MathSoc Chief Returning Officer: Andre Magalhães

Ed Sez

We're seriously having elections?

In all of my years covering student politics, I have never before seen an election campaign so exciting. We have 10 candidates running for 4 positions (with none acclaimed), and it's going to be a difficult choice on November 2nd and 3rd.

Normally, you pick up *mathNEWS* for humour, *profQUOTES*, and other general amusements every second Friday. This issue is different. We are actually trying this thing called "journalism", trying to give you enough information to make your vote count. MathSoc faces a pivotal point in its life, and it is up to you to decide, for better or for worse, how your student society moves forward.

So what can you find in this issue? You will find information about all of the candidates, why they are campaigning, and what they want to do for you. Additionally, you will find coverage of our exclusive interviews with all of the candidates, and some of the interesting discussions which ensued from them.

From the time I started doing journalism in high school, the only interesting political campaigns I have ever seen are when fines are levied for stupid things (like in the Bus Pass and CKMS referenda in '07 and '08). This one is different. Political punches are getting as fierce as they are in Ottawa, alliances are sprouting up in interesting places, and several unexpected developments are catching everyone off guard. I can't predict the outcome of next week's vote.

So why are we here? We simply want to present to you the information that you need to make your votes count. In past campaigns, candidates have done very little to reach out to you, the voter, which is unacceptable in my opinion. I don't know if this campaign will be any different (it was just in its beginnings as I was writing this), but in any event, we wanted to make sure that you knew as much as you could to cast your vote. It must be noted that *mathNEWS* does not endorse any of the candidates featured in this publication.

Also featured in this issue will be information about the Federation of Students referenda. You will be deciding on three issues: funding for Sound FM Radio, funding for an extension to Health Services, and funding for a new Student Services Complex on the south side of campus. Voting for these referenda are to take place from November 9th to 11th.

In summary, we hope that you find this special edition of *mathNEWS* to be helpful in changing the future of MathSoc. You can continue to make the Society work for you, or you can bring it to a halt. For more about what MathSoc does, go to www.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca. The ballot will also be there on November 2nd and 3rd.

Insided

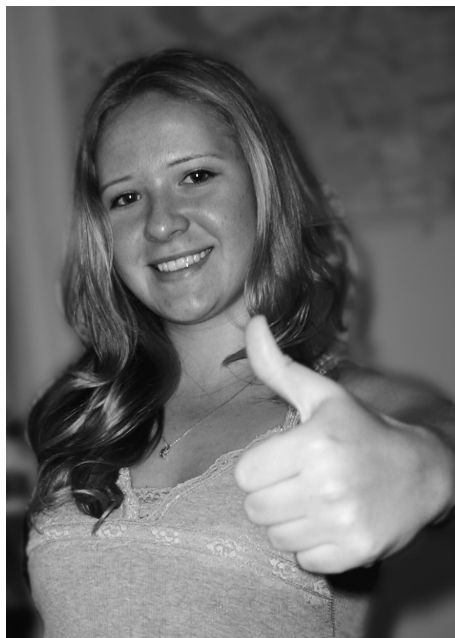
PS Don't worry, your regular humorous *mathNEWS* will return next Friday.

What's in here?

- 2 Messages from the Editor and CRO
- 3-4 Candidates for President
- 5-6 Candidates for Vice President, Activities & Services
- 7-8 Candidates for Vice President, Academic
- 9-10 Candidates for Vice President, Finance
- 11 Federation of Student Referendum Information

Candidates for President

Nadia Novikova



Hey everyone! So, I'm 5'2", long blonde hair... sorry, wrong questionnaire! I'm currently a 3B Applied Math Student, and I'm very excited to be running for the President position for the 2010 election.

Having been involved with MathSoc for over two years, and having already held this position in Summer 2009, I've had a chance to learn the ropes, gain the contacts, and go way up the learning curve. Now, I'd love a chance to continue the work I was doing, as well as introduce a few new ideas. My goals include completely solving the Math Coffee and Doughnut shop fiasco – and I know this is possible through all the preliminary work I've done last term. Also, I want to introduce some concrete new ideas, which include expanding the exam bank through a crash course for professors on submitting exams, and launching a series of academic seminars about the math research currently going on in the faculty! (Your professors are doing some really awesome work– wouldn't it be great to learn about it in an informal setting, refreshments provided?)

But most importantly, I realize that this is not enough. MathSoc is based on serving students, and we need to get your concerns, needs, and desires met. So, what I'm really excited about is being the backbone of an organization that can convert student input into concrete action within the course of one term, and that's my biggest goal! Go ahead, challenge me with your ideas for MathSoc!

Sarah Pidcock



Hello, my name is Sarah Pidcock and I am a 4A Mathematics and Computer Science Student. I am running for President because I have been involved in MathSoc in various capacities for 3 years so I have the knowledge and experience necessary to build on MathSoc as it stands right now. I have represented Math students for the last 3 years as part of MathSoc Council and as VP Finance so I am aware of the issues that affect Math students. My goals as President would be to be a strong voice for Math Students at the administrative level, work on improving student space through the Capital Improvements Fund, and continue my work I have done on the CnD Board this term to improve its financial status. Also, having chaired the Policy Review Committee in Spring 2009, I can see some areas where policies could be updated to reflect the current operations of MathSoc, its affiliates, and clubs so I plan to work on that as well.

My Experience:

- Involved in Mathsoc for 3 years (since Spring 2006)
- Publicity Director (Spring 2006)
- Novelties Director (Winter 2007-Spring 2009)
- Internal Director (Winter 2009)
- MathSoc Council CS Rep (Winter 2007-Winter 2009)
- MathSoc VP, Finance (Fall 2009)
- Chair, Policy Review Committee (Spring 2009)
- Student Member, Faculty Council for Student Appeals
- Chair, CnD Management Board (Fall 2009)

If you have any questions about my platform or about MathSoc in general, I am always around MathSoc and open to discussion.

Responsibilities of the President

The President acts as the Chief Executive Officer of the Society. Her duties will include presiding over General Meetings of the Society, providing Society representation at external functions and public occasions, being responsible for Society public

relations, appointing representatives to sit on external committees, and acting as a representative to the Faculty, University, and Federation of Students. She will also fill in for the VP Activities & Services in the event of long-term absence.

A Conversation with the Presidential Candidates

I had planned to speak with all three candidates for President, however one of them dropped out of the race a couple of hours before the interview. I decided to then speak with the other two and get their very differing perspectives on the various goings-on in MathSoc.

InsideR: Why are you running for President, and what do you hope to achieve during your term?

Nadia Novikova: I want to continue the work that I did in the summer. A lot of hard work has started, and so continuing for another year will allow me to incorporate my goals and the work that I started. I want to end the C&D fiasco, and I've gained plenty of good ideas from last term. Having someone who knows the ropes would be beneficial to the Society.

Sarah Pidcock: I've been involved in MathSoc in many capacities, and I see lots of room for improvement, especially with respect to policies. My biggest goal is to take a good look at policies and bring them up to date. As well, I'm chairing the C&D Management Board, and I want to work towards financial sustainability for the C&D. I'm also interested in working more at the faculty level; I'm currently sitting on the Student Appeals Committee, and I'm enjoying the relationship with faculty and I want to expand my horizons on that front.

InsideR: What experience do you have, both inside and outside MathSoc, that makes you think you're qualified for the position?

Sarah: I've been a CS Rep on Council since 2007, and I consider myself to be a veteran. I have also held several directorships (most notably Novelties), and I'm familiar with the day-to-day operations of the Society. I've also been Internal Director, so I know where policies can be improved. I've been an Orientation Black Tie and Photography Coordinator.

Nadia: I've been involved with the Society for over 2 years, starting as a First Year Rep in 2007, where I got stuck being secretary. I've also been Social Director and VPAS, and was President last term. The experience is important, and I'm very familiar with all of the candidates, so we can get started right away. I've also been part of Orientation one year, and part of the Youth Science Foundation at the national level, as a mentor for science fairs.

InsideR: Apathy is a growing problem among students in the math faculty. For example, we are often lucky when we get 5% of students out to vote in a given election. Why do you think this is, and how do you plan to deal with it (if you plan to at all)?

Sarah: The problem is that students are absorbed with their academics and they don't notice what's going on outside of that. I'm not sure there's much you can do about that, but we need to try to do things that benefit the students and not just the people running them (for example, more academic initiatives), and make people more aware of what we do on academic issues. People need to know what MathSoc does that affects their lives.

Nadia: In the last few weeks, I've been doing some research on volunteer organizations, and the biggest problem is that the Society has been disconnected from what students need. What we're doing to draw in volunteers is clearly not working, and there's nothing we can do to improve the Society without building one-on-one relationships with students and find out what we can do for them. Once we've connected with students' needs, they will realize that we are here for them.

InsideR: You both are very familiar with the financial difficulties facing the Coffee and Doughnut Shop. What is causing this problem, and how do you plan to bring it to financial sustainability?

Nadia: There is a lack of communications between the MathSoc Executives and the C&D Manager, as well as in transition between executives. Lots of info is lost in transition, and I didn't realize until it came up last term that the C&D was in trouble. I want to see regular meetings between the C&D Manager and President and/or VPF, as well as regular meetings with the C&D Board (as it's a year-long board). We're working with FedS for a full financial review of the C&D, and we're off to a good start, and we're also working to get expertise from those who run profitable C&Ds.

Sarah: The #1 thing is wages, and the fact that the C&D is not taking in enough money to cover wages. We need to have a full review of everything, and we will have to make price adjustments. I have been having weekly meetings with the C&D Manager this term when I sign her cheques. We also need a standardized form of record-keeping shared between the C&D and VPF.

InsideR: You have both served on Executive Council, with Nadia as President over the summer and Sarah as VP Finance this term. What big projects are you/did you work on that you wish to continue as President in 2010?

Sarah: Over the summer, I took a good look at policies, got them all together, and I want to continue with that project. This term, I'm working on getting MathSoc's records back under control, cleaning up after last term's VPF. I also want next term's VPF to maintain simple records that are easy to keep clean and transition.

Nadia: The C&D fell on us pretty hard, and I only had a month to deal with it, but this problem is rooted very personally. We can make the C&D self-sustaining if we create a tool for the manager to continually reevaluate processes and practices, and hopefully we can use future profits to improve seating in the C&D lounge. I also want to redo the transition process, as there's only an optional report to pass onto next term's exec. I want to put mandatory inter-term reporting and other transition info into policy so that future execs (and directors, for that matter) can get started from day one.

InsideR: As you know, you are going to be running the entire MathSoc organization if elected. What does leadership mean to you, and how would you describe your leadership style?

Sarah: Leadership for me is making volunteers aware of what's expected, encouraging them and helping them (though not too much). I'm very precise, to the point where some call it micro-managing, but I want people to know exactly what needs to be done and when to get it done by. It can lead to frustration (and sometimes me doing it by myself), but it leads to results.

Nadia: I think it's synonymous to service; I don't want to be the "follow me" type of leader. It's math students' ideas that are important to me, and I want to be a resource to make their ideas a reality and guide them to their own goals. I believe that everyone has goals, even if they don't realize it, and by building the relationships with the volunteers, we can see what they are interested in and find their niches.

Candidates for Vice President, Activities & Services

Ian Charlesworth



Good day, fair reader. As you no doubt have heard, I, Ian Charlesworth, am one of three candidates for the position of MathSoc VPAS this coming year. I would like to say first off how glad I am that so many people are running for executive positions this year. I remember in the Fall 2008 term, we had no President and so had to run elections at the start of the term. Immediately before the close of the nominations period, there were about ten of us in the MathSoc office with a nomination form full of signatures and no nominee, until Matthew Woolman volunteered for the position. The fact that we have so many people wanting to help out this term is excellent, and I think promises to lead to a great year.

I could go on at this point about how I plan to run this-and-that event, and how I have such-and-such skills qualifying me for VPAS. But I expect the other candidates to make similar statements, and really, these things are in my opinion part of the job description anyway. Besides, actions speak louder than words, and I have already demonstrated that I am capable of doing a good job last Spring term. Instead I would like to say something which I hope both is memorable and distinguishes me from my rivals: redundant platypus.

To my opponents, good luck, and to everyone else, please vote! Apathy is one of the worst enemies of democracy.

Responsibilities of the VP Activities & Services

The VP Activities and Services is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Society, including the services it offers. This includes weekly Games and Movie Nights, the MathSoc Office, lockers, and publicity. The VPAS usually appoints between 10 and 20 directors to assist with these tasks. They also fill in for the President in the event of long-term absence.

Most candidates for all positions have groups on Facebook!

Go check them out!

Selin Erkaya

So let's get to know one of our VPAS candidates, me = Selin. I am a second year student in Actuarial Science and Drama joint honours. I really want to be Vice-President of Activities and Services, and I believe that I am good candidate for this awesome job. Before I tell you more about me, I should tell you what I think would be the greatest part about getting this job:

- (1) To be responsible and work as team with directors
- (2) Come up with some creative and fun events
- (3) Make you happy

Now, why am I good candidate for this position?

- I am so excited to create new & fun events as well as to make our lovely traditional math events more exciting.
- I am currently the social director for MathSoc .
- I'm very open-minded and always willing to listen to new ideas from anyone. =)
- I am highly entertaining.
- I have a ton of fun ideas.
- I am hyper pretty much 24/7!!!

So here's a sneak preview for my winter '10 ideas

- Roses for Valentines' day
- Carnival food fun
- To get more first year students to join MathSoc, after all they are the future.

"There is some love that will not go away" (Celine Dion) which means that my love to MathSoc will never go away =)

If you see me around MC, feel free to come and say Hi!

Joycelin Karel



Hi readers! I'm Joycelin Karel and I'm running for Vice President of Activities and Services for Winter 2010. I've been the office manager of the Mathematics Society for 3 consecutive terms and I've been involved with MathSoc since Fall 2008. I have exciting new ideas for events that I want to run next term. If I get elected, I'm planning on getting new novelty items to sell in the MathSoc office, and having a suggestion box so I can get your great ideas for improving the activities and services for all you awesome mathies!!! Vote Joycelin Karel for VPAS for Winter 2010 during the election period!

A Conversation with the VP Activities & Services Candidates

The VPAS interview was by far the most entertaining. All three were there in person, there was the occasional sword fight (in which BeaverED was wounded), and the catch phrase was “I agree with x”.

InsideR: Why do you want to be VPAS?

Joyce Karel: I want to try to improve things in MathSoc, by running more events and approaching people who don't know much about the Society. I didn't know much about MathSoc in my first year, and I want to reach out to quiet, shy people like me.

Selin Erkaya: I want to find first-years and get them involved. I want to find new people, new ideas, and people to replace those who are graduating.

Ian Charlesworth: I've done it before, and I had a lot of fun and want to do it again. We need to get more people involved in MathSoc, but as well on the weekly events. For example, we had about 20 people come out to Games Nights every week (which is good for a summer term), but we need to do better.

InsideR: What do you hope to accomplish during your term as VPAS?

Selin: More fun things. I have fun, and so should others. We need to have more fun things like Charity Balls, and we need to reach out to more math students on an interpersonal level.

Ian: We need to run lots of fun events, but we need more focus on getting people to know the services we have available. For example, I see people line up outside Campus Copy every term to get their work reports bound, and it's cheaper to do it yourself in MathSoc.

Joyce: I want to grow and improve personally, but on a Society level, I agree with Ian. We need to get people to use the services they pay for, and get people out to events.

InsideR: In the role, you will be selecting about 10-20 directors to help run the Society. What leadership experience do you have, and what is your style of leadership?

Selin: I did a Rotary Orientation for international students in high school, and I've worked in a program to help special education students. As for my style, I can be fun, but I will lay down the hammer if needed.

Joyce: I was an Orientation leader in my high school since coming to Canada in 2004, and I've also been an Orientation Leader, Head Leader, and Head Black Tie. I've also coordinated Central Registration for Orientation, and I've had to organize workers as Office Manager this year.

Ian: I've been VPAS before, so I'm experienced in the position. I've also been an Orientation Leader and Head Leader, as well as Office Manager. However, those are not the same kind of leadership, as you have to lead a bunch of different people in different directions because no two directorships are the same.

InsideR: What do you look for in the people that will be your directors?

Ian: I learned the hard way last summer to make sure you have a good person in the position and that they can get things done on their own. They need to show initiative, and the biggest thing is that they can get things done on their own and that they know what they're doing. First-years should start as co-directors or board members before being named as full directors so that they can get experience.

Joyce: Being Office Manager, I agree that you need competent people, but at the same time, directorships are not easy to do.

You therefore need to have multiple people in a given role, matching new directors with experienced ones.

Selin: We need to have new people to learn the portfolios, but we also need experienced people to teach them. One thing that I learned as a frosh leader is that we need some shy directors and some outgoing directors so that we can connect to more people.

InsideR: Apathy among math students is very high, if election turnouts are any indication. What do you think is causing this, and how do you plan to address it?

Joyce: It's a combination of people not caring and not knowing. We need to get office workers to help promote events, and other volunteers to advertise in their classes. We also need more posters, and should not limit ourselves to our bulletin boards (posting where people actually go). As well, we need to get people to actually read signs, as that's what they're there for.

Ian: We need to reach out to first-years right after Orientation Week. Last year, MathSoc Day didn't happen due to a lack of executive, and this year, it went OK. We want to get more first-years excited about MathSoc from Day 1 and tell them about what we do. We also need to figure out how to use the Announcement mailing list and reach out to more people, and finally to get more posters on the 2nd and 4th floors (where people actually have classes).

Selin: A major problem is that advertising is usually done last-minute, so we need to do it more in advance. For example, weekly Movie Nights are not really advertised until day of, which is too late. As well, since the bulletin boards are often hard to read (because of all that's on them), we should do more announcements in class.

[Program Reps and First Year Reps are currently responsible for keeping students in their classes and programs informed about MathSoc's happenings. — InsidED]

InsideR: Tell me about a time where you set yourself a goal but failed to meet it (for one reason or another). What happened, and what did you learn from it?

Selin: I had an optional midterm this term, which I chose to write. I bombed the midterm, and decided not to hand it in. At the time, I wasn't serious about studying, and I learned that things that seem easy can easily get out of hand. I'm now looking more towards the future, and putting studying before friends. (I broke a mirror on the same day, so I have 7 years of bad luck left.)

Joyce: I set myself a goal to make a summary of my notes every day after class. However, I got lazy, which is bad. I learned that I should work more to commit to what you're supposed to do (not that I'm not doing that now).

Ian: I tried to go for a whole term getting sleep every night before an assignment was due. However, I have failed every time, and have learned that procrastination is bad. It is important to be organized and pretend things are due a day before they really are, and I've improved from one all-nighter per week to twice or three times per term.

InsideR: What is the most important part of the VPAS' job?

Ian: Choosing good directors. The Society doesn't really need a VPAS if the directors are doing their jobs.

Selin: Being available, and letting the directors do their jobs.

Joyce: Delegating, being professional when giving direction, and doing what you say you'd do.

Candidates for Vice President, Academic

Niky Hristov

Hello fellow mathies! My name is Niky Hristov and I am running for Vice President of Academics for the Winter 2010 semester. I hope to represent your opinions over academic issues to the dean and the faculty of mathematics. I believe that I can represent you before the dean, because I am currently at the crossroads of my academic career. Many of the issues that may be brought up I have had to deal with in the last few months. I am in my 2A semester and over the last year I have had to declare a major, decide which courses I may want to take and plan out my coop sequence that would fit the classes I want. As VPA I would hope to make this process a little less daunting, and as in the case of the Mathematical Physics major, make sure that the default sequences account for most (if not all) math students can go take all the courses they want without too much trouble.

Having just entered my second year at Waterloo, I have begun to be more involved in the faculty of mathematics. I was a pink tie leader during frosh week, I have written several articles for *mathNEWS*, and I am currently acting as the Internal Director for mathsoc, and the Applied Math representative at council. I am asking you to please help me continue my involvement with mathsoc and elect me your VPA for the Winter '10 semester!

Piraveena Tharmalingam



The name is Piraveena Tharmalingam and I'm running for VPA. Some know me as "FOC" or "the girl in math" or "the girl who proposed and got Pinky, The UW Math Mascot" or "the girl who got Vanderburg, Riley & Wolczuk to excite Academic Sessions" (the pre-2009 frosh are thinking why didn't we get them?) or "the really happy girl" or "the penguin" or "the whale" or "the girl who loves UW Math".

If you don't know me at all, well I'm an experienced student leader who wants to let you (yes YOU) know that you have more power than you think :) My extensive involvement in student life will get your opinions to the right people at the RIGHT time. You can have a say in what courses are offered, in how exam policies are made and much more in the academic life at the Math Faculty. You can voice your opinion. Check me out on Facebook for my campaign platform and ask any questions you may have.

Put your trust in ... EXPERIENCE, PASSION & KNOWLEDGE
... Vote PIRAVEENA as VPA :D

Oh and don't forget to smile !

Ajnu Jacob



I am a 4th year Mathematics student, majoring in Operations Research and have been representing the math students on various student bodies, including UW Senate, FedS, and the MathSOC. I'd like to have the readers know what I accomplished and what I wish to achieve if I were to be elected as an Executive over my worthy opponents.

Accomplishments:

- As the Interim VP, Finance of Spring 2009, Nadia Novikova and I have investigated and re-opened CnD's financial fiasco by conducting an internal review. An overhaul to the shop is underway and as part of the Board we will continue to do so.
- As a part of Senate, represented the faculty for its resounding negative response against changing the Exam Regulations to include Saturday as a day to schedule midterms.

Goals:

- Publicize MathSOC's Services: For instance, the Math Undergraduate Office compiles a list of professor reviews from the earlier term and makes it available through MathSOC at the start of each term, however this service (and many others) isn't known by most.
- Improving Administrative communication between Faculty and Students: With Peter Wood's (Director of Undergraduate Business and Accounting Program) assistance, I would like to enhance the relationship through the Faculty Student Liaison Committee, by appealing to meet more than once a term.
- Formalizing the student representative structure on the Undergraduate Affairs Committee, a committee that oversees changes to math undergraduate programs.

Thank you, and I hope you all go out to vote.

Responsibilities of the VP Academic

The VP Academic is responsible for representing students on all matters of an academic nature. This typically includes sitting on Faculty Council, Representative Council, Undergraduate Affairs Committee, and Computer Science Faculty Council. They are also responsible for organizing events of an academic nature, and maintaining academic-related services such as the Exam Bank. They will also fill in for the VP Finance in the event of long-term absence.

A Conversation with the VP Academic Candidates

The VPA interview was the most interesting to do, because we had a much more in-depth discussion than I could have expected. All three candidates see significant yet different ways to improve students' academic lives in the faculty.

Insider: Why are you running for VPA?

Ajnu Jacob: I want to build a relationship with the faculty with the various councils we sit on. There are issues with program administration, and that student voices are not being heard. I'm also doing a lot of similar work on Senate.

Niky Hristov: I want to get more involved and keep myself busy on my work term (I'm working on campus). I'm just starting second year, and I'm finding it difficult to find a co-op plan that fits with my current major, and I would like to make this easier for future students.

Piraveena Tharmalingam: In my last role as an Orientation Director on the Federation Orientation Committee, I was able to see plenty of opportunities where student voices can be heard. A lot of this isn't being used to capacity, and voices aren't being heard from the average population.

Insider: What do you hope to accomplish as VPA?

Niky: Throughout the campaign, I hope to gain three suggestions from math students on how to improve their academics.

Piraveena: I want to get representation for the average population on Faculty Council and the committees under that umbrella. Specifically, I want to ensure that info is relayed in a timely manner. I understand that MathSoc meetings are effective for those who attend, but outside of the meetings, we get no real reports from those committees, and I want to see them made public.

Ajnu: There are a lot of untapped resources on the faculty side, which was brought to my attention by Peter Wood (chair of the Faculty Liaison committee). It would better the students to enhance the relationship between the Faculty and its students, which has withered over the past couple of years due to VPAs that have not been as proactive. I would like to maintain relationships with them and get them more involved.

Insider: What do you think is the most important issue relating to your portfolio right now?

Piraveena: It's getting the voice of the general student population heard, but as well, we need to tackle exam conflicts. In 1B, I had a ridiculous final exam schedule, and because they were not back-to-back, I still had to write 5 exams in 3 days. I want to revise the exam relief policy and make it better for students. As well, to make the general population's voice heard, I want to have a suggestion box for students to submit suggestions.

Ajnu: I'd say it's the Math/Business program. It's one of the larger programs that's not an elite department, and many of the core members of the department are not as experienced. I want to encourage smaller class sizes by including more researchers from more elite departments to assist with lecturing. I know the Dean's office is looking into this, and I want to learn what resources can be tapped into.

Niky: I want to make it easy to select courses and organize schedules. For my major (Math/Phys), fourth year becomes difficult to make using any default co-op sequence. As well, I want to see smaller departments get involved to help students, and possibly get a director position to help with this.

Insider: The exam bank is a popular tool that students use for studying, but it's gotten out of date as courses continue to change.

How do you plan to keep it up to date and useful to students?

Ajnu: I've spoken to Peter Wood about this as a past exec. All exams are sent to the Math Undergrad Office before going to the exam rooms, and so regulating a system that would allow profs to opt in/out of forwarding them to MathSoc would allow us to keep it up to date.

Piraveena: The exam bank can be useful, and the challenge is that profs like to reuse exams. Repeating exam questions reduce the quality of the course, and it shows that the prof isn't taking a proactive stance to revisit it. Encouraging slight changes to exams would benefit both current and future students. As well, we need to get answer keys for the exams as well.

Niky: The exam bank is becoming obsolete, and it's becoming more useful to get tests off of ACE. If we can't get the exam bank up to date, we should look more into study skills sessions as opposed to exams.

Ajnu: Such sessions are important and well-received by students, but we can't get to all students that way. We need to maintain the exam bank for those not proactive enough to attend these sessions.

Piraveena: The exam bank is easy to access, especially as we live in the technological era, and is a great resource to use and build. Sessions are effective, but they're not for everyone.

Niky: We should be putting on useful, per-class sessions, similar to Students Offering Support (SOS).

Piraveena: SOS is a paid service, and some of the money goes to charity. As MathSoc, we can't endorse that organization as a student service. We should consider looking to add resources to the tutorial centres, such as more TA hours.

Niky: [Student's name removed] doesn't like SOS because it is paid, and he is volunteering his time by offering free sessions for courses in his major.

Ajnu: Clubs currently hold an initiative with respect to academic sessions. I was President of Stats Club in the Winter, and we did student-run review sessions for 230 and 231, and I know the CS, PMC and ActSci Clubs do similar things. The services already exist; we just need to give more encouragement.

Piraveena: We need to ensure that the students who are running these are qualified to do so, looking at academic standing and progress in their programs. We don't want to have a session run by someone unqualified and risk MathSoc's reputation.

Niky: A directorship would be useful to ensure that all programs and major courses are covered for this.

Insider: If, during a faculty meeting, you learn of a proposed policy that you (and only you) disagree with. How will you react to that?

Piraveena: I had a lot of experience with this on FOC this year, and I've been in this situation while planning Monte Carlo Night. I'd voice my concerns very diplomatically, pointing out the pros and cons of my solution (the latter of which is often forgotten).

Niky: It depends on the timeframe I'm given, but I would try to get an extension on this decision if possible. I would also try not to attack these people, as they are higher up than me. I would use that time to get the opinions of other students.

Ajnu: I would move to table the discussion to another meeting and get students involved. I would appeal to the student body using a formal referendum and use that to represent students as a whole.

Candidates for Vice President, Finance

Rami Finkelshtein



Hey everyone,

I didn't see you there when I come in....wait why are you all looking at me funny? Oh, you want to know who I am?

I'm Rami Finkelshtein and I am your candidate for VPF. Why am I running for this? I want to make your (yes I'm talking to you specifically) math experience more awesome than it already is. I want you to have a faculty and a university that you can be proud of. Now you are probably asking "What makes him qualified to do something like that?"

I have a long standing history with MathSoc and have been a volunteer for almost two years now. In that time I have had time to learn quite a bit about the society. I have been (and will be in the Winter 2010 term) a *mathNEWS* editor who is also specifically in charge of all the finances for *mathNEWS*. I have also worked as the Speaker and the Secretary for the Mathematics Society council and have held the Games Directorship last term.

I am running to make the Society as good as it can be for all of you, the students. From more transparent budgets, to finally fixing the C&D and making it profitable again I have ideas and a plan of action that can go a long way to making your university life as enjoyable as possible in the Math Faculty.

So don't forget to vote and when you finally do remember, vote Rami for VPF 2010!

Kumar Patel



My name is Prashant "Kumar" Patel! I am a 2A Math student here at UW and I love it! My hometown is Rexdale, Ontario. Since I was in my grade eight I was involved in student government. It was then when I was elected student council president. I didn't disappoint my peers and was voted in class valedictorian. Thistletown CI was the high school I attended. It was there where I really developed a passion for leadership and student government. Getting involved in various leadership conferences, safe-school initiatives and being appointed student council treasurer I felt I could contribute more and more as the days went on.

I stepped up, ran, and was elected student council Vice-President and President during my senior years respectively. Once again, I was voted valedictorian of my graduating class.

Currently I serve as Social Director and the Internal Financial Reviewer for MathSoc.

From raising thousands of dollars for the cancer research to organizing formals and semi-formals, I've seen it all and I've lived it all. Most importantly during my past years of being involved, I truly developed and experienced lessons of life that shaped me to who I am today.

The most important thing I have learned is that "Leadership is an opportunity to serve. It is not a trumpet call to self-importance"-Walters,J.Donald

Fellow students, let me show you what I have to offer. Let my experiences contribute to MathSoc. Let ME have this opportunity to serve YOU.

Responsibilities of the VP Finance

The VP Finance is responsible for all financial matters related to the Society. Specifically, he is to ensure that all records are complete and up to date, present a budget within the first month of each term, prepare financial reports and the start and end of

each term, and present financial reports to Society members at the Annual General Meeting in the Fall term. He will also fill in for the VP Academic in the event of long-term absence.

You know, the LAST thing I wanted was to require filler in an election issue.

Oh well. I guess you can't have everything.

A Conversation with the VP Finance Candidates

I sat down with the two candidates for VPF in an attempt to understand their platforms and their positions on the issues.

InsideR: Why are you running for VPF?

Rami Finkelshtein: I have been considering running for the position for about a year and a half, but other activities have prevented me from doing so. I have worked with previous VPFs, even during the worst of times, and I think I can push to better benefit the society.

Kumar Patel: I want to see more efficient financial practices, as well as to the C&D. I want to make budget meetings as well as the budget itself run more smoothly.

InsideR: How do you think it can run more smoothly?

Kumar: For example, the Federation of Students has a separate budget committee chaired by the VPAF, and because of this, they are able to get away with a 20-minute presentation to Council for a much larger budget.

Rami: Phillip Keung (VPF S09) has a great campaign to bring down the meeting time by interviewing all directors and club executive prior to bringing the budget to council. The interviews focused on things that council would be likely to pick on, and these meetings resulted in much shorter budget meetings (between 1 and 1½ hours, vs 2 to 3 hours normally). I want to be able to bring this policy back.

InsideR: The C&D is facing large financial problems. Last term, MathSoc Council gave them a \$50,000 bailout as the result of accumulated debt. A lot of students want to see the C&D become more sustainable. How do you plan to do that?

Kumar: We need to go through the books and analyse what has been happening. As this problem cannot have happened overnight, it is up to the VPF to notice these trends. It will take time to bring the C&D up to sustainability, but I will work with the other members of the C&D Management Board to learn what's been done and what other C&Ds on campus are doing to be profitable.

Rami: The C&D has been plagued with misfortune from the beginning. I sat on the C&D Management Board in the spring, and I've been keeping up with what they've been doing. We have started to look at the books, find the problems and ensure that they don't happen again. Additionally, there needs to be better communication between the C&D Manager and the Management Board. We have also been in touch with Mary Bland (who runs the Engineering C&D) to learn what they do, and hopefully we can model what they're doing.

InsideR: I've been asked a couple of questions pertaining to the C&D. Firstly, if it's losing money, why don't we just close it? Additionally, if its main purpose is not to make money, why not run it as a MathSoc-funded deficit?

Rami: If we close the C&D, we would lose that space forever. First bidding would have to go to Food Services, which we are not willing to do, as we want to keep it cheap for students. We can't continually subsidize it as students already complain that the MathSoc fee (which currently sits at \$12.50) is too high, and on average, the society does break even, and I am not willing to cut student activities.

Kumar: The C&D is there to provide convenient and cheap food, and closing it is the coward's way out. If it could be sustained a few years ago, we can sustain it again. There is still a profit margin despite its low prices, so there's no reason we can't

bring it back to sustainability.

InsideR: Then why is it losing money?

Kumar: I think it's inventory. A lot of times, when my friends and I go there, a lot of items are out of stock. We should be making more of an effort to order more popular items, like Jamaican Patties which sell quickly at the Engineering C&D.

Rami: We would have to go back at least a decade to find profitability, as there was another similar bailout in 2002 for \$30,000. We should be finding more items that go in and out quickly, and making sure that things are easy to stock.

InsideR: What experience do you have dealing with budgets and general finances?

Rami: I put my personal accounting before everything else, keeping myself on a very strict budget. Additionally, as an ActSci student, I have done a lot of fiscal work. As a MathSoc example, when I was Games Director last term, attendance was growing but I couldn't get more money for food (because the budget was tight), so I looked for (and found) cheaper pizza and made our money go further. I was also in charge of *mathNEWS* finances last term.

Kumar: In Grade 10, I was appointed Student Council Treasurer, which is usually reserved for Grade 11 and 12 students. I had to keep a close eye on cheques and making sure they were within budget. I also ran a small tutoring business during the summer, and part of my job involved dealing with the financial aspect. I was also involved with working with management at Future Shop preparing annual budgets, and I worked at the CRA learning about the tax system. I am also the Internal Financial Review for MathSoc this term, which means I check over the current VPF's records.

InsideR: What is the most important responsibility of the VPF?

Rami: It's the same as any MathSoc official: providing the service you're supposed to. People should be confident that their money is covered, and should not have to wait two or three weeks to get reimbursed while worrying about their own finances.

Kumar: We should be showing what we do. This is my first time really being involved with MathSoc, and until now, I didn't know where my \$12.50 was going.

InsideR: How do you plan to make it more transparent?

Kumar: A general awareness campaign designed to make people feel more comfortable about where their money is going. For example, campaigns and posters along the lines of "Did you know that x% of your fee goes towards Movie Nights?"

Rami: I would like to see the entire budget on the MathSoc website after it's been approved. Additionally, I'm hoping to get more advertising and postage space around MC.

InsideR: There is increasing wind that FedS will begin to audit societies. If, in preparing, you find a gross error from a previous term, how will you handle it?

Kumar: I would look into financial records and talk to the director or club exec responsible. The important thing is to keep calm and bring in greater authorities if needed.

Rami: This is only a test audit, so we won't be hit hard if it's not good. Having said that, we typically take pride in ensuring that our records are up to date, and if something is up, I would find the previous President and VPF and get a first-hand account of what line items mean and where money went missing. It's usually just an error, but I would go to proper authorities if necessary.

Federation of Students Referenda

It's your money they're asking for.

This fall, the Federation of Students is holding three referenda. The first is to reinstate the fee for Sound FM, our campus radio station. The second is to help fund an extension to Health Services. The third is to help fund a Student Services Complex on the south side of campus.

In 2008, students voted overwhelmingly (by over 2/3) to remove the \$5.50-per-term funding from the campus radio station, then branded as CKMS. Since then, the organization has made a number of changes to how it operates, and is asking for a \$2.50-per-term refundable fee to be added to the Feds Administered Fees to support Sound FM. The station is saying that if the referendum fails, the situation will be “dire”. It is unknown when the fee will be implemented if the referendum is successful.

The expansion for the Health Services complex is designed to keep pace with the growing student population. The current complex was designed in 1968, when there were about 1/3 of the students on campus that we have today. The new expansion is planned to accommodate approximately 8 full type physicians and state of the art facilities. The 10,000 square-foot expansion is expected to cost students \$7.75 million; the fee will be \$10 per term starting when construction has completed (estimate: 2011-12) and terminating when the capital costs have been paid off (estimate: 20 years).

The Student Services Complex is a three-to-four-storey complex located to the west of the University Avenue entrance (currently Parking Lot H). Some of the services expected to be housed there include the Visitors Centre, Retail Services, another multi-purpose room, an expanded Office for Persons with Disabilities, Student Life Office, Counselling Services, expanded study space, meeting space, a movie theatre, and many more facilities. Undergraduate students are being asked to fund 65% of the project, or \$30.5 million; the fee will be \$49.50 per term starting when construction has completed (estimate: 2012-13) and terminating when the capital costs have been paid off (estimate: 20 years).

It should be noted that all three of the above fees will be subject to inflation. The Sound FM fee will increase according to the Consumer Price Index, and the Health Services and Student Services Complex fees will increase by up to 2% per year. Additionally, both of the latter two fees are not refundable.

As the campaign period had not begun as of press time, we were unable to contact any of the referendum campaigns for comment. However, as campaigning is now under way, you can visit <http://vote.feds.ca> and find links to the Yes and No campaigns for each of the three questions. Voting will take place from November 9th at 4pm to November 11th at 4pm, with the voting taking place online at the same website. While no debates have been scheduled as of press time, that is likely going to change: watch for posters around campus.

InsideR

**We apologize for the actual news
being presented in this issue of
mathNEWS.**

Your regular funny things will return next Friday.

mastHEAD

As if we could possibly leave this out...

We typically use this space to give credit to those who contributed to an issue of *mathNEWS*, and we felt that we needed to end our interviews on a lighter note. We therefore asked all of the candidates what they would do if a zombie hoard came to their office hour and asked for all of the money.

President

Nadia: I'd put bait on one side of the exec office, then escape through the other side.

Sarah: I'd find a chainsaw, or split the natural log into wooden stakes. Wait, that's vampires. I'll try stabbing their heart with a coathanger.

VP Activities & Services

Ian: I'd grab the money and escape from the second office door, keeping the money “safe”. It's a little-known fact that the Exec office has much weaponry and zombie-slaying power, as well as a Nerf-rifle which can be turned into a Nerf-shotgun.

Joyce: I'd call Angelo. I have contacts. If I can't reach him, I'd make a replica of Angelo to scare the zombie hoard. I'd also steal CorruptED's tophat.

Selin: I'd start by doing the Thriller dance, then I'd send them to Arts.

VP Academic

Niky: Depends on the type of zombie. If they are a traditional zombie, I'd shoot it in the face. If it's an I Am Legend type of zombie, I'd make sure I'm immune to the airborne disease, and keep in mind that they can't even stand in any light.

Ajnu: Firstly, the money is already secure. Past execs chose room 3039 for the exec office because it has two exits, so you can run out of either.

Piraveena: I'd start with showing my gymnastic skills, cartwheels and kick them in the face. I'd then scream annoyingly, take the money, and run.

VP Finance

Rami: Keep in mind that zombies can't pull, so they can't open a door. The exec office is fortunate enough to have no windows (which is good), and I would attempt to go through the ceiling as an escape route (taking all of the money with me so that the zombies don't take it).

Kumar: I'd call Angelo for advice. If I can't reach him, I run, and I should be able to outrun them.

Other Contributors

Insided: First and foremost, zombies have no interest in money in the first place. All they want are brains. They wouldn't want mine (too chewy), so I'd offer up the brains of Imprint staff.

CRO: First of all, I would not fear them at all because they are clearly not zombies if they are asking for money instead of BRAINS... Second of all, since they aren't zombies they must not be very bright either since everyone knows that zombies want brains and not money so I would just pretend to be a zombie and start yelling BRAINS!!!! Scaring off this fake zombie hoard for fear of becoming a real zombie hoard.

The MathSoc Election Process

Explained

All elections in MathSoc work using the BC-STV (Single Transferable Vote) system. What this essentially means is that, instead of voting for your executive, you will be ranking them.

On November 2nd and 3rd, you will log onto `mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca` with your Quest userid and password. From there, you will be presented with the list of candidates for each position, along with the ballots. For example, the VPAS ballot will look something like this:

VP Activities and Services (Winter/Fall 2010)

Ballot	Candidates
	Ian Lorne Charlesworth
	Joycelin Isadora Karel
	Selin Erkaya
	<input type="button" value="Vote!"/>

For each race, you will rank the candidates in order of preference, with 1 being the most preferred, by dragging them to the appropriate location on the ballot. While you are able to rank all of the candidates, you are not obliged to do so. All full-time undergraduate students in the Faculty of Math (including Software Engineering and Computing/Financial Management) who have not requested a MathSoc refund are eligible to vote.

Once the voting has closed, all of the first-choice ballots will be counted. If any candidate has 50%+1 of the votes, he or she will automatically be elected. If none of the candidates have that number, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and their votes get transferred to the second choice listed on those ballots. As there are no more than three candidates on a given ballot, that will be sufficient to determine a winner.

President Resignation

William Sellier has resigned his position of President this term, citing personal reasons. Sellier would like to thank all of those who have helped him in his role, and has declined further comment.

Edgar Bering is currently serving as Acting President until the end of the election period as per an unrelated policy. There is no word as of press time when or if a by-election will be held for the post.

And now, a random proof

I can't think of anything else to fill this space with.

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{-1} &= \sqrt{-1} \\ \sqrt{\frac{-1}{1}} &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{-1}} \\ \frac{\sqrt{-1}}{\sqrt{1}} &= \frac{\sqrt{1}}{\sqrt{-1}} \\ \sqrt{-1} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{-1}} \\ \sqrt{-1}\sqrt{-1} &= 1 \\ -1 &= 1\end{aligned}$$

The FedS Referendum Process

Again, explained

Each side of a referendum is allowed to have one committee endorsed and funded by FedS. They will be pitching their arguments like any other campaign would.

From November 9th to 11th, you will go to `vote.feds.ca` and log in with your Quest userid and password. You will then be presented with the three referendum questions, one after the other. For each question, you have the option to vote yes, no, or decline your ballot. All full-time undergraduate students are able to vote in the referenda.

A significant issue in the last election was that students would quit the application after casting the first vote, as they cannot find the link to the next ballots. The voting system was designed then to present the next 10 seconds after the confirmation message appeared for the previous one. It is unclear at this time if this will be the case again this time, but bear this in mind when you vote this time.

After the voting closes, the side that receives the simple majority will be the decision taken by the Federation. In order for a referendum to be binding, at least 7% of undergraduate students must vote for the winning side. The results will be announced on Friday, November 13th at noon.

The Referendum Questions

As they will be presented to you

1. Do you support a refundable increase of \$2.50 to the Federation of Students Administered Fees to support Radio Waterloo, which would be increased annually for inflation as determined by the Canadian Consumer Price Index and be subject to terms set by the Federation of Students as defined in the attached agreement?
2. Do you support the addition of \$49.50 to the Student Coordinated Plan fee to contribute to the proposed new Student Services Complex? This fee would be implemented once the building opens to students (estimate: 2012-13), would be terminated upon completed payment of the undergraduate portion of the capital costs (estimated at 20 years), would be indexed for inflation by up to 2.0% per year, and would be paid by each full-time undergraduate student on the University of Waterloo main campus.
3. Do you support the addition of \$10.00 to the Student Coordinated Plan fee to contribute to the proposed Health Services expansion? This fee would be implemented once the expansion opens to students (estimate: 2011-12), would be terminated upon completed payment of the undergraduate portion of the capital costs (estimated at 20 years), would be indexed for inflation by up to 2.0% per year, and would be paid by each full-time undergraduate student on the University of Waterloo main campus and at the School of Pharmacy.

**FedS Referenda are November
9th to 11th!**