

math NEWS

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Vice-President Academic Elections for Fall 2011

*Who's running, what the duties of the VPA are, and
how to vote!*

So you're probably wondering why *mathNEWS* is out two weeks in a row. This week is a special election issue as MathSoc has an election coming up on July 18th and 19th for the Vice-President Academic for Fall 2011. The candidates are Sean Hunt, Elizabeth McFaul, and Bryanne Pashley.

The duties of the VPA are as follows:

- The VPA is responsible for all academic operations of the Society.
- The VPA will represent the society and its members to the Faculty, to the University, and to the Federation of Students on academic issues.
- The VPA will ensure that members have access to up-to-date academic information.
- The VPA will suggest changes to the way that Council seats are allocated as necessary when changes are made to the programs offered by the Faculty.
- The VPA will, in conjunction with the other executives of the society, organize events and manage services of an academic nature.

The VPA also has a set of directors that they will appoint, for resources of various natures. The portfolios of these directors will be directly supervised by the VPA.

The elections will be open next Monday and Tuesday, the 18th and 19th of July. You can vote at <http://www.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca/vote>. You will be asked to give your WatIAM credentials. We use a ranked voting system, so you may vote for as many candidates as you want, in the order you want. It follows the Single Transferrable Vote system. If your first choice got the least number of votes, they will be eliminated, and then anyone who voted for that choice will be transferred to their second choice, theoretically preventing strategic voting.

Please get informed, talk to the candidates, and then go vote on Monday or Tuesday! If you can't access the website, please come into the MathSoc office to cast your ballot!

The Editors

VPA Candidate: Bryanne Pashley

This is a poem for your consideration
But first we dispense with some light administration
Please do go vote Monday or Tuesday of next week
mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca/vote is the URL that you seek

I'm in C&O, it's now my fourth year
And in that time I've involved myself here
From Orientation to MEF to acting in FASS scenes
To (current) VPA and orchestra and everything in between

Now that I've thoroughly bored you to tears
I'll tell you my plans for the rest of the year
I think that it's vital you know all these things
Your vote holds power and knowledge is king:

Open communication between students and MathSoc
To give you our updates and listen when you talk
In turn we can better stand up for you
And fight for the items on which you take issue

I'll also work to build our ties
With UofT Math Union and FUN*; our allies.
To create a forum for co-op city locations
Such that students do not feel as though alone in a desolate
nation

And now I thank you for taking the time
To read on as I stumble through rhyme
I applaud your initiative to get informed
I hope through this poem, to me you have warmed.

**FUN: Fields Undergraduate Network.*

In all seriousness, I would love to serve you again this fall. Join the discussion on facebook (search: VPA Fall 2011: Bryanne Pashley) or email (bmpashle@uwaterloo.ca) for more info.

Bryanne Pashley

Articles from the other two candidates on the back!



VPA Candidate: Sean Hunt

Hey there,

I'm Sean and I'm going to start this off with a question. How much do you know about what's going academically on at UW? Do you know what changes have been approved for your major plan but haven't yet come into effect? Do you know which of the courses you're planning to take are being 'deactivated' next year? Do you know for sure that they won't change something up at the last minute and screw up your graduation? I wouldn't be surprised if you answered 'No.' It's a sad state of affairs—the University often plans changes years in advance. There's no reason that you shouldn't easily be able to find out that starting in September of 2012, you can double major in Mathematical Economics and in Math/Business Administration, or that effective this very fall, a couple of upper-year AMATH/PMATH cross-listed courses are being made PMATH only. However, this information is hard to find.

These examples may not apply to you, but consider what would happen if they did! The University does try to do a good job at making sure that students aren't hurt by the changes (your plan requirements won't change unless you want them to, for instance), but it's not always enough. There are changes already approved in some faculties for 2014; there are a lot of variables flying around and they still have to pick a cutoff date.

My goal here isn't to be fatalistic, but these sorts of things can happen. That's part of why I'm running for VPA. I want to make sure that students know exactly what changes might affect them. The other side of things is that I want to make sure that students get time to contribute to the changes. This is a lot more difficult because it's quite time-sensitive—the Faculty decided this term to rewrite MATH 135 by fall, for instance—but this can be done, even if only by showing up at a classroom saying "Hey, this course is going to change, any suggestions?"

Academic representation is a very important issue, and the Faculty wants and needs strong student representatives to help guide them in their decisions. Nobody is happy if the representation is weak. So please be sure to vote on Monday or Tuesday. It's not a lot of effort and it could have a serious impact on your career.

Your candidate,
Sean Hunt

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VPA Candidate: Elizabeth McFaul

Greetings *mathNEWS* reader! After spending a weekend navigating in the dark with flashlights, Elizabeth McFaul is excited to be writing this lovely article in the filtered sunshine of the MC Comfy, which has a few more windows. There's nothing quite like fluorescent lights on an early Monday morning to get you excited and inspired... not.

That being said, I'm excited to say that I'm running for VPA! I'm an awesome candidate for the role of Vice President Academics (VPA) for MathSoc for the upcoming Fall 2011 term. I am a third year Math and Business Double Degree student. I'm interested in the position of VPA because I want to represent the interests of Math students. I'm organized and passionate about making the answers to academic questions easier to find. Summer plans? All set! Courses for next week's enrolment session? Not a clue. Academic planning is often last minute or late night procrastination, so it's so important that it's easy—not navigating twelve pages of Quest, the undergrad calendar, and your friend's Facebook posts to figure out a decent schedule before enrolment opens in an hour.

To help you in the decision making process, here's some facts about me that you may or may not or may know:

- Since Tim Hortons created these awful banana timbits, I've taken to rejecting free timbits (which saddens me).
- If I'm not at Waterloo or Laurier, I'm usually at Starbucks, even when it's totally out of the way... only an extra four blocks? I have time right?
- I'm also left handed. Extremely left handed.

These are facts that had nothing to do with position of VPA. However, things I will be working towards, if elected, include:

- Posting course descriptions online before the start of the semester to make course selection easier
- Making the information from course evaluations student-friendly and useful
- Expanding the MathSoc exam bank, improving MathSoc's textbook lending, and investigating an option for students to rent as opposed to buy textbooks
- Hosting a study-abroad information fair specific to exchanges for math students

If you have any questions, please send me an email (elizabethmcfaul2@gmail.com) or check out my Facebook group Vote Elizabeth for MathSoc VPA (<http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/160362414032559?ap=1>). Thanks!

Elections are on July 18th and 19th!
Go to mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca/vote and vote!