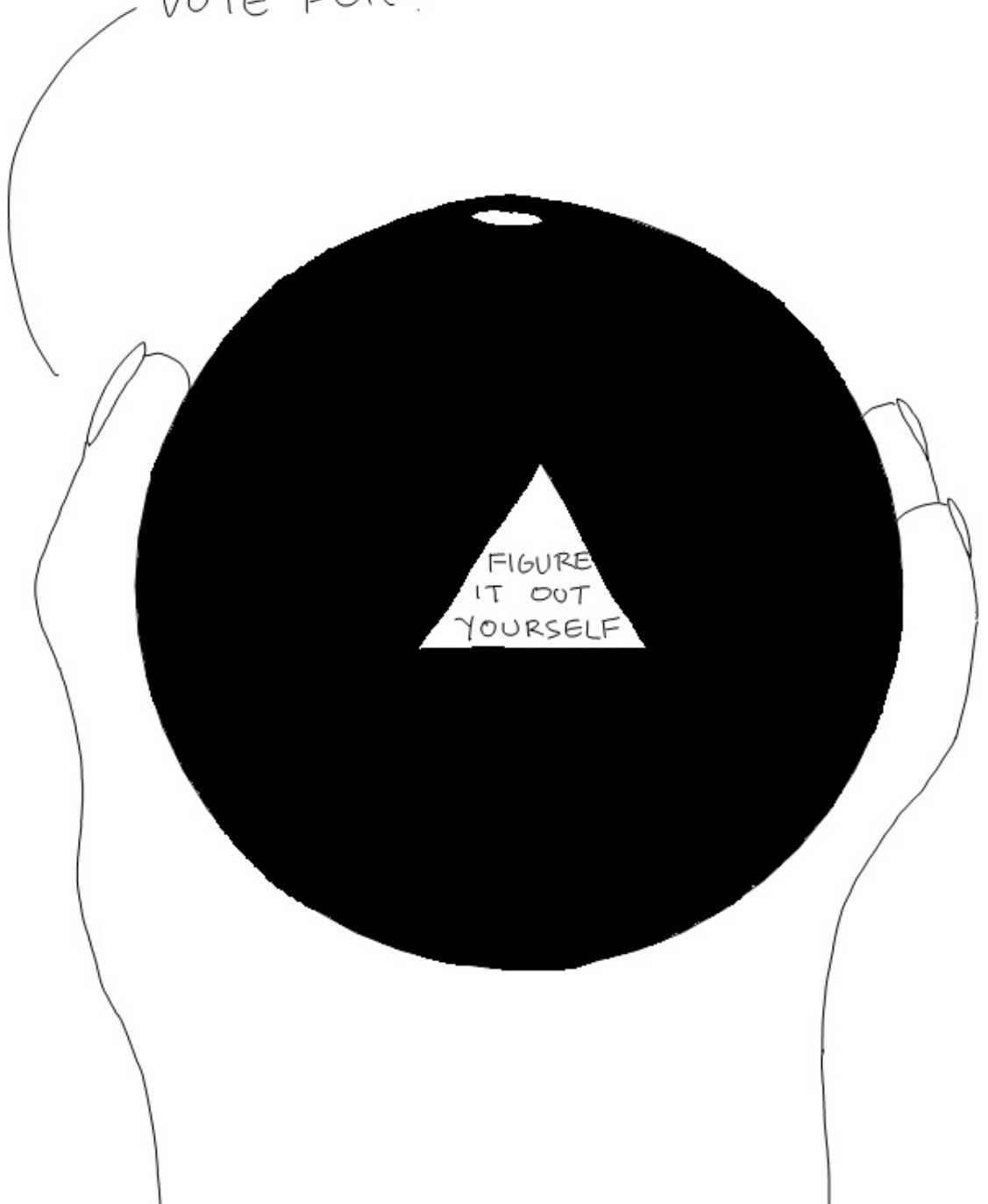


NEWS

mouth

MAGIC 8-BALL,
WHO SHOULD I
VOTE FOR?



Elections: Trying to
make sense of it all

CC
SOME RIGHTS RESERVED



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mastHEAD*Wait, this isn't Friday!*

Now you might be wondering why you are holding a copy of *mathNEWS* in your hand, when it's obviously much too soon before the normal distribution date of Friday, December 2. That's because there is an election going on, and with the surprisingly large number of candidates running for positions this term, we decided to compile an issue featuring what they had to say for themselves. Seeing as I've spent my Sunday making this, they'd better have something worth saying *grumble grumble grumble*

In all seriousness though, you should read this issue. Voting in the MathSoc elections is a BIG DEAL, since the people on council run all of the events happening to us Mathies. Pints with Profs? That's them. Academic Help sessions? Them as well. Resume critiques? Totally them. Running the CnD so it has the amazing hours that it does, and the low prices too? That's them. Pi Day? Proudly funded by MathSoc. *mathNEWS*? Ok, not that.

Council does a lot for the student body, and so we need to make sure they do it properly. Every single one of these candidates has their own platform and agenda in mind, and only YOU can decide whether they should go through with it or not. When you vote on Thursday or Friday, keep this issue by your side as a handy reference guide. It might just be used to break the tie and decide your vote.

If you want to get more involved with MathSoc instead of just voting, volunteers are always welcome. Every term MathSoc's directors (the lieutenants of council) are appointed, and they handle the day-to-day affairs. At the beginning of your next term, fill out a director application and get involved!

If you want to dip your toes into the pool of MathSoc politics instead, see if you're eligible for an acclaimed position. An acclaimed position is a voting seat on council that hasn't been filled for the term because no one was nominated for it. Contact your local MathSoc CRO or Internal Director for more details.

I'm not running for anything because I have other commitments that I would rather maintain (hint: it starts with an "m" and ends with an "athNEWS"). So I asked the *mathNEWS*er in the room: What would your election platform be?

Snippet ("Miniaturization of Top Hats")

!ED ("Making Friday part of the weekend and giving every new baby a chocolate éclair")

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Spending their Sunday ballroom dancing and doing layout: !ED and Snippet

How to Vote*An Indispensable Guide for Election Day*

Hello all,

Since this is the election issue, you'll most likely be reading this and deciding which candidate would best represent you in MathSoc council in the following year. Once your decision has been made, you'll be wondering how you can tell us who you want to be your representative.

Now don't break out your carrier pigeon just yet, for there is a very simple method to vote that doesn't involve live birds.

1. Get access to a computer that is connected to the internet. How you do this is up to you.
2. Go to elections.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca and log in with your Quest userID and password.
3. Vote!

Note that you can only do this on December 1st and 2nd. You'll be able to vote for who will be the MathSoc President for the fall term, and for your program representative (if applicable).

Happy voting!

!ED

And the results are in!

List of Acclaimed Positions (If your program isn't listed, no one ran)

President

Elizabeth McFaul (Spring, Fall)

Vice-President, Finances

Gerald "Gee" Gayowski (Winter)

Vice-President, Operations

Xuan "Tappy" He (Spring)

Lauren Hurley (Winter, Fall)

Vice-President, Events

Tyler Rozak (Winter, Fall)

Vice-President, Academic

Sean Hunt (Winter, Fall)

Catherine Sun (Spring)

Actuarial Science Rep (3 seats)

Joshua Tsai (Winter)

Stéphane Hamade (Winter)

Pure Math, Applied Math, and C&O Rep (2 seats)

Ifaz Kabir (Winter, Fall)

Daniel Resnick (Winter, Fall)

Computer Science Rep (5 seats)

Dino Baron (Spring)

Elana Hashman (Fall)

Maher Kassim (Spring)

Anna Merkoulouvitich (Spring)

Owen Smith (Spring, Fall)

Business Rep (5 seats)

Jessica Chau (Spring)

Yi Chen (Spring)

Jessica Janssen (Spring, Fall)

Xin Yi (Shinyi) Shi (Fall)

Yi Qi (Lily) Tan (Fall)

Xiaoshi Wang (Spring, Fall)

Teaching Option (1 seat)

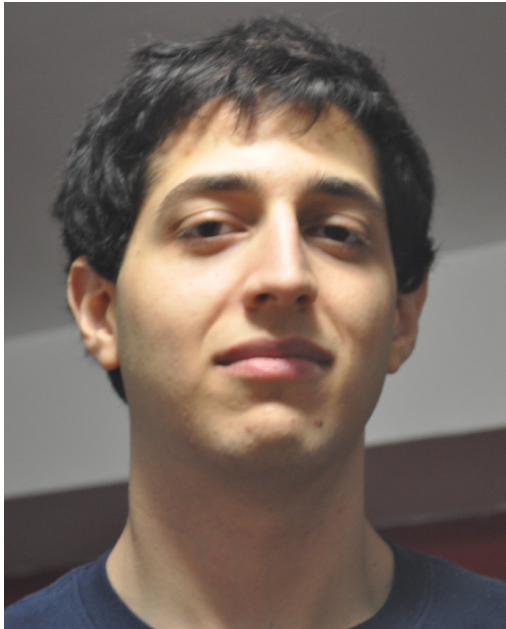
Xuan "Tappy" He (Winter, Spring)

Mathematical Studies and Other Rep (4 seats)

Lorraine "Lily" Horne (Spring)

Presidential Candidates

Josh Shabtai



Hi everyone,

I've been active member of MathSoc (on council, and as a general volunteer) for over a year now. In that time I have helped out where I could. I have helped set up, run, and clean up any events that needed it. I have also been on council, and served on its committees. These include the C&D management board, where we oversee the running of the C&D, and at the moment are working hard to solve the debt issue as quickly as possible. I am also on the Digital Signage committee, where we are working with other groups (including FedS, and the Math Faculty) to get a little more modern, and have TV screens up to display useful information (such as upcoming events).

Outside of MathSoc, I am also a Math Councillor for FedS. There I represent Math students to FedS (a different level of student council). I have also served on some of their committees such as the budget committee (which helps iron out the details of the FedS budget, roughly \$2 million, before bringing it to student council for approval) and the Internal Administration Committee (which oversees the creation of new clubs). The last committee I am a part of (and one I helped create) is a brand new one intended to look at the way Food Services is run from a students perspective, and propose solutions to any problems that all parties can agree to.

If elected, I will serve Math students as best I can, and represent them to the faculty, and other bodies. So this Thursday/Friday, remember to vote Josh Shabtai for MathSoc president.

Josh Shabtai

Also running for: CS Rep

Harrison Gross



Hello math students! I'm Harrison Gross, and I'm running for MathSoc President for Winter 2012. I've been an editor of *mathNEWS* for the past two years, have sat on MathSoc Council, and have held a couple of different director positions. So I've got experience. But I hear you asking, "What the hell does the president do?"

Well, for starters, the president is the glue that keeps the society together. He gets people moving on tasks that the society needs, delegates tasks as necessary, and make sure everything is running smoothly. He has to make sure everything is running smoothly. I've had experience directing large groups of people through *mathNEWS*, as well as being the president of the Waterloo Science Fiction Club.

Now you might be saying: "Okay, that's cool I guess. Sort of boring. What will you offer students?" More than anything, I want to bring openness in the society. People don't know what the society does for them, or what they can get out of it. For one, I want clubs to be able to apply for funding for events for students in an easier fashion.

I also have ideas as to how to open up the finances of the C&D, as well as letting people know about the upcoming Digital Signage project. If you want to hear more about the platform, please visit facebook.com/hpgross4prez. I hope come out and vote on December 1st and 2nd, and I would be honoured if you would choose me to be your president.

Harrison Gross

CS Rep Candidates

Andre Magalhaes



My name is Andre Magalhaes, and I am running to be your Computer Science representative on MathSoc council.

What makes me qualified to be your representative?

Well, I've been involved with MathSoc and many of its affiliates for the past 4 years in many different positions. Orientation leader/Tie Guard, MathSoc Novelties Director/CS Rep, and FedS Math Councillor are a few of the positions I've held. Currently I am once again a FedS Math Councillor and also President of MathSoc.

Why am I running for CS Rep?

The experience and knowledge I've gained over these years is crucial to the continued success of MathSoc. I will be graduating after this upcoming winter term and feel that I should step down from presidency before then in order to properly transition the new president into their role. Though I won't be president, I would still like to be part of the decision making body of council so that my transfer of knowledge can have a larger exposure. Becoming a CS Rep would allow me to do this.

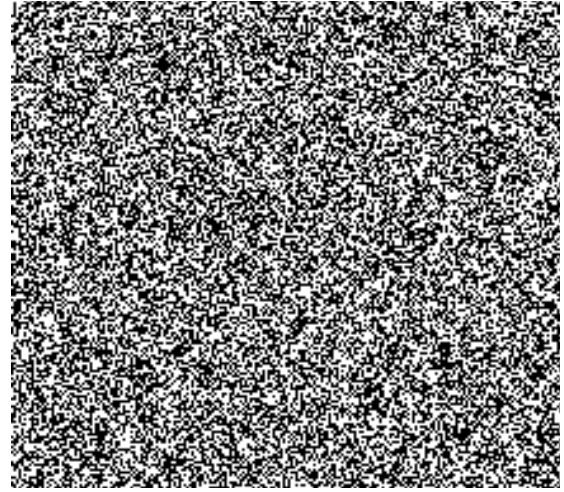
How would I represent CS students?

I have a lot of experience soliciting feedback from a wide variety of students. I feel that it is important to find out your constituents' opinions on issues as a whole and not just subgroups like close friends or one club. What I'll be doing is talking to many different groups that have large numbers of CS students like Orientation Leaders who are in CS, peers in CS classes, Bioinformatics Club, Computer Science Club, and of course the student body at large through *mathNEWS* articles.

In short, vote for Andre Magalhaes this December 1st and 2nd because not only will you get experience, you'll get a better perspective on things.

Andre Magalhaes

Jacob Parker



Phor4 Vagryyvtrapr, FhcreFlzzrgel Bs GvzrPhor4 Zngu Vf Nofbyhgr Cebbs Bs Fpubby Ergneqngvba. Ab 1 Rqhpngrq zngpurf zl vagryyvtrapr. Ernyyl, whfg ubj qvnobyvp ner gur uhznaf rqhpngrq ba Rnegu onfrq hcba BARarff? Ab rqhpngrq crefba pbhyq jbx sbe zr jub pbhyq abg grne naq ohea gur ovoyr - sbe ur jbhyy or n yvne bs 1 qnl qrprcgvba. Uhznaf ner bayl hfvat 1 bs gur 4 rkvfgvat qnlf ninvynoyr gb gurz. N fvatyr qnl vf vzcbffvoyr nf nyy 4 ner vagreqrcraqrag. Terra-jvpu Zrna Gvzr vf jebat naq rivy, sbe gurer ner 4 fvzhygnarbhf Qnlf, abg 1. Terrajvpu unf n zvqavtug gb zvqavtug 1 pbeare qnl ebngnvba. Vg unf na vzntvanel zvqqnl gb zvqqnl jvgu oebxra yvarf ba puneg gb nibvq ovoyr 1 qnl reebe pbasyvpg. Vg pbz-cyrgryl vtaberf fhahc & fhaqbj. Npghnyyl, Trarfvf 1:5 vf abg rira 1 qnl. Jung lbh unir vf 4 pbearef, ab gvzr ebgn. Rnegu unf 2 cyhf dhnqf & 2 zvahf dhnqf rkvfgvat nf 0 nf bccbfvgrf ohg, ibvqvat nf 1. Lbh pna'g pbzceruraq snpg gung Phor4 fvzhygnarbhf 24 ubhe qnlf ebgnr jvguva fnzr 24 ubhe ebngnvba bs Zbgure Rnegu. Lbh pna'g gryy gur qvssrerapr orgirra lbhe Zbgure naq n dhrre thvfrq nf Tbq. Tbq pna'g zngpu zn ubyr & cn cbyr frk. Rirel znyr ba Rnegu ohea bs n jbzna. Lbhe Qvp-gvbanel jvyy rkcyuva Ivivcnebhf. Oryvriref Rtb xvyyf Grra sbe dhrre vznt. Unaqf Syng ba Gnoyr Jvgu Guhzof Gbhpuvat - Cebirf Lbh Ner Zveebe Bccbfvgrf - Abg N Qvnobyvp BARvfg. Bccbfvgrf Chyfngr Yvsr, Bar Vf Qrngu, Rnegu Unf 4 Qnlf Va Fnzr 24 Ubhef. GVZRPHOR4 Genafpraqf 1 Qnl Tbq. Uhznaf ner jvfre ng ovegu guna nsgre shyyl rqhpngrq - sbe gurl ner gnhtug artngvivfgvp nagv-yvsr BARvfz gung qbrf abg rkvfg ba bccbfvgr + & - cbyr Rnegu. Vg qrinfnggrf Yvsr'f chyngvat nagvcbrf.

Jacob Parker

Other CS Rep Candidates

No word as of press time

- Dino Baron (Spring)
- Marc Burns (Winter)
- Elana Hashman (Winter, Fall)
- Gwynneth Leece (Winter)
- Maher Kassim (Spring)

- Marcus Kelbert (Winter)
- Anna Merkoullovitch (Spring)
- Joshua Shabtai (Winter)
- Owen Smith (Winter, Spring, Fall)

Note: All Spring and Fall positions were acclaimed

ActSci Rep Candidates

Ford Lu



FREE DONUTS, CHOCOLATE, AND ICE CREAM!

Good! Now that I have your attention, my name is Ford Lu (not joking) and I will persuade you to vote for me as a first year representative in Winter 2012 and an Actuarial Science representative in Fall 2012. I am currently in the Mathematics/Business Program but I will be entering in the Actuarial Science program in my second year.

Enough about me now, because this article is about YOU! So when was the last time YOU had exercise? A few weeks ago? During frosh week? Or not at all since high school? Well, YOU are in luck. As a student representative, I will address YOUR needs for more extracurricular activities, including sports, dances, events and more. We mathies are not geeks who just write lengthy blocks of code at night, integrate challenging functions for fun, or estimate when someone would stop breathing. We are more than that. We are also athletes and dancers who can handle balls and bust moves. In order for YOU to present YOUR other unique sides, I will work together with the rest of the Math Society to create a fun and exciting environment in which YOU will have the best times of YOUR lives.

Other than creating stress-relieving events during stressful times, I will also take in whatever suggestions or complaint you have and report them to executives so that we can all collaborate and make studying math at the University of Waterloo an awesome experience.

Remember, this is all for YOU. Vote for Ford Lu, vote for YOU.

Ford Lu

Also running for: First Year Rep

Hello Actuarial Science students,

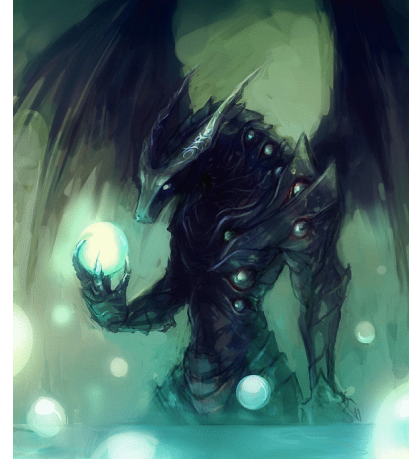
I have been an Actuarial Science representative since Winter 2010 and I was a first year representative in Summer 2009. I am a very active member of the Actuarial Science club having served as treasurer and publicity director in the last two terms I was in school.

I have been on many committees while on council and have always worked to improve student life for Mathematics students and specifically Actuarial Science students.

If you have any questions or concerns please message me at sjthamade@uwaterloo.ca.

Thank you,
Stéphane Hamade

Joshua Tsai



I am Joshua Tsai, and I will be a candidate for one of the three seats representing ActSci on MathSoc council in Fall 2012. For that term, I would be in my 3A term and it would be my fourth term on MathSoc council representing ActSci, after being acclaimed into the position for Winter 2012. With many terms of experience behind me, the workings of council are familiar to me; any questions and concerns directed herein would be heard on council to be discussed. I also have gone to all meetings except for one this term, and that was because I went to Toronto to write 1/P. If there is anything important which crops up in any meeting which you all should know, I would hear about it. On a related note, in my next two terms holding the position, I will work on improving communication between the constituents (that's you who are in ActSci) and the councillors – the current status quo of having the club as a proxy is insufficient in reaching everyone in the constituency.

With my so-called platform out of the way (it's also the block of wood which I am metaphorically standing on), I can fill up this space with random facts about myself that has nothing to do with this position:

- I regularly write for *mathNEWS*
- I have played D&D with a prof
- I understand the grammar of Tolkein Elvish (both Quenya and Sindarian), but lack vocabulary
- My UW userid is explosive: c4tsai
- For some strange reason I will end up as the designated healer in any (MMO)RPG
- I am working on a book at glacial speed – I'm hoping it might get done before the robot uprising

Joshua Tsai

Stéphane Hamade

ActSci Rep Candidates

Zainab Mansoor



First of all, let me say: you are not alone! Yes people, it's that time of year again. The dreaded finals have finally crept up on us and we never even saw them coming. One day you woke up and realize that your first paper was due in two weeks. At least that's what happened to me. Perhaps my peers are more aware of what's going on in class.

Regardless, I said to myself, "Finals shminals! I am SO running for elections this year." A 1A student by the name of Zainab Mansoor - a name that ensures I'm at the very last of any list - has been stumbling around this campus, not knowing where each day went. That's right folks, that sad little person is me. Or rather, was me. These past few months have been very instructive, very instructive indeed. The first thing I learned was that being in Math at UW meant you are currently at the academic pinnacle any student would ever hope to reach - oh yeah!! So let's simplify that into a nice little formula:

$$\text{Mathie} = \infty * \text{awesomeness}$$

Now that we've got that settled (note that even your algebra professors won't ask for a proof of the above equation, the formula is simply a fact of life), let's get down to some serious business. Elections are coming up soon, and you should vote. Even today it's a right that people are fighting and dying for in different countries all over the world. So be the smart people that you are and vote. Just make sure you vote for me! I'm running for two positions in Math council:

1. First Year representative in Winter semester, 2012
2. ActSci representative in Fall semester, 2012

Because we're mathies and therefore constantly looking for causality, you may ask yourself: why should I vote for this girl? I'll tell you exactly why. I'm energetic, enthusiastic and dedicated. We need strong leadership in the council and a representative must have these qualities. I'm approachable and friendly, and I can strike up a conversation with just about anyone! I won't bore you all with a lengthy list, but make sure that when you go on the net to vote, you vote for Zainab Mansoor =D

Zainab Mansoor

Also running for: First Year Rep

Isabel Ji



For those of you whom I haven't yet had the pleasure of meeting, my name is Isabel, and I am a first year Honours Math student here in Waterloo. I'm one of your candidates for MathSoc Council First Year Representative for the Winter 2012 term, and to edutain you, I reworded the ever-classy Pokémon theme song. Feel free to sing along if you remember the tune!

*I wanna be the very best
Rep there ever was.
To champion first years' requests
In Council is my cause!
Every choice and every plan
Will be relayed back to you;
Making sure you understand
The how-what-why and who!
(First year rep!) (Gotta rep us all!)
It's you and me...
We are the Society!
(First year rep!) I think we all agree
Communication is the key!
(First year rep!) All these doors to unlock,
But never fear, Imma rock your Soc
Vote for me — I want to be
Your first year rep!
(Gotta rep us all!)*

Now that I've completely embarrassed myself in a formally recognized publication, here's a little more serious stuff about me:

My motivation for running for this position is not simply to bring your ideas and opinions to the Council table; I want to motivate you (yes, YOU!) to become a more active part of MathSoc and the Faculty.

Communication, after all, is a two-way street.

When was the last time anyone updated you on MathSoc in person? When was the last time you really felt "in the loop"? First years, you deserve more transparency. You deserve to be informed. As a first year representative, I'll make it my mission to bring the knowledge to you.

Remember, every vote counts, so make your voice heard!

Isabel Ji

Also running for: First Year Rep

ActSci Rep Candidates

Brittany Lee



Britt Lee here! Now you're all probably wondering, why would I vote for you? Out of all these 16 people, why Brittany? I can only talk about my experiences, so see if you can relate to them and see me as someone you would want to represent as your voice.

School involvement

Currently, I am a first year representative of MathSoc, which organizes the social events, clubs, the MC Comfy, the CnD and countless fun things that they run and maintain. As a representative, we vote to make decisions for the Math students. Our goal is to enrich the lives and environments that are available to the Mathematic students, while still having a balance of fun. As a 1st year representative, I was appointed to listen to what YOU have to say, and to reflect that opinion onto the council meetings, so you can count on the fact that I will and have had the experience of speaking up!

Personal promise

I'm free any time of the day to listen to what people have to say, whether it is:

- opinions
- criticisms
- comments
- suggestions
- anything!

because the whole point of being a representative is to represent. To speak up and voice our opinions that are a direct reflection of your many voices is my duty.

Vote Brittany!

For the winter 2012 term, I'm running for First Year Rep, and for the fall 2012 term I'm running for Actuarial Science Representative. Since Grade 12, I've been a student council representative, and have been planning to be a part of the Actuarial Science program. Not only that, but I would love to not only fulfill this goal of mine, but to also represent all the Actuarial Science students as well. I know how important it is to listen to everyone, and that is what I am here to do.

Brittany Lee

Also running for: First Year Rep

First Year Rep Candidates

Catherine Sun



My name is Catherine Sun and I am a candidate for three positions during the winter and the spring term: VP Academic, Actuarial Science Rep. and First Year Rep. For me, VP and REP are not just two single abbreviations, they stand for:

V-Victory:

Ultimate goal for a VP Academic—your victory in winning your career campaign.

P-Plan:

Everyone needs an academic plan before their career adventure. As a VP Academic, I will do my best to help you create your plan.

R-Responsibility:

Responsibility and trust are complementary to each other. I hope that you can trust my capabilities and let me act as your voice after understanding me a bit better from my self-briefing.

E-Equal:

We are all Waterloo WARRIORS! We share the same passion, the same potential, and the same ambition to succeed.

P-Potential:

Every word from you has the potential of improving our Math Society. If I have the chance, I will spread your words and try my best to maximize the potential of your brilliant ideas.

As promised above, here is a succinct briefing about myself.

University—I am currently a first year Math student and I am planning to major in Actuarial Science in my second year. Recently I have been working for MathSoc under the Resources Board. For the past three months, I helped coordinate several co-op related events, such as the Resume Critique sessions and Case Study Workshops. Also, I am familiar with different positions in MathSoc, therefore I can communicate effectively with my fellow colleagues.

High School—I was the president for my school's math club in grade twelve.

Thank you for your patience in finishing reading the last sentence,

Please VOTE for Catherine Sun. XD

Lots of Thanks.....∞

Catherine Sun

Also running for: VP Academic (Acclaimed)

First Year Rep Candidates

XuJin Ma



PROCRASTINATION FTW ^ _ ^

...you probably should be studying right now...but read this first!

With finals so close, you probably should be studying right now, but you decide to procrastinate by reading this edition of mathNEWS. While you're at it, take time to consider the following few paragraphs. I promise I'll make this short so you can get back to studying...uhhh...or procrastinating some more.

My name is XuJin Ma and I am running for First Year Representative! Most of you are probably still struggling, trying to think of possible pronunciations of my super awesome name, but I will ease you of your stress, it's pronounced Soo-Jin. Remember this name, because this is the name of your future first year representative (Of course you're voting for me, I mean how else are you going to procrastinate on December 1st and 2nd?).

I'm not going to write a boring article telling you how responsible I am, or how approachable I am because, let's face it, it can all be inferred from the title of this article. So why should you vote for me? It is obviously because my last name is exactly the first two letters of "Math". You think it's just a coincidence that our math chant is "MA, MAT, MATH, MATH ROCKS?" and it spells out my last name multiple times? No, it's because I am meant to be your first year representative! So by way of my awesomeness, you, yes you reading this issue of mathNEWS, should vote for me to be first year representative because I can get your concerns out there, and make a change that is right for you.

VOTE XUJIN MA!

XuJin Ma

Kathy Liu



KATHY LIU 4 FIRST YEAR REP



MathSoc Elections are coming up, and there are 5 seats on the council dedicated towards first years....THAT'S US! Since I know that we need to get our voice heard, I'm running for First Year Rep for the upcoming Winter Term, and I'm asking you guys for your vote!

Why vote KATHY LIU for First Year Rep? Here are a quick couple of reasons as to why you should vote for me:

- I'm experienced: I'm the Director of Publicity for MathSoc for this term, and I've already been attending MathSoc council meetings and learning how the daily operation of MathSoc works. This way, I'll be better suited to communicate YOUR needs fast!
- I'm dedicated: As a fellow first year, I share your concerns and will be wholly dedicated to getting YOUR concerns on the agenda for the Speaker to address.
- Reliable: You can always count on me to get your concerns heard:
 - Have suggestions for improvements to the C&D? Tutorial centres?
 - Have ideas for some cool MathSoc swag?
 - Not sure about the services MathSoc offers?

Tell me and I'm on it!

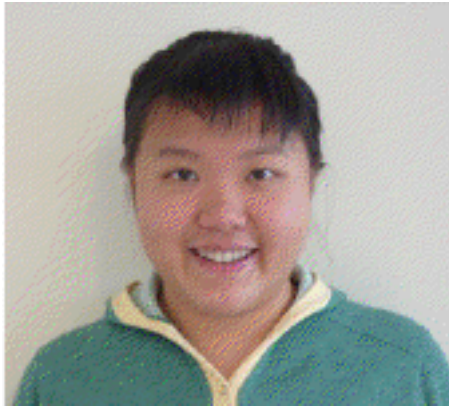
Not only am I experienced, dedicated and reliable; I'm also an approachable, outgoing individual, which is perfect for the role of communicating & updating all my fellow first year mathies on MathSoc's various events, services, and future plans.

So on Dec 1st and 2nd, vote KATHY LIU for your First Year Rep!

Kathy Liu

First Year Rep Candidates

Lily Tan



Looking for someone that is responsible and easy to approach? Look no further, fellow first years! Vote for me, your trusted friend — Lily Tan.

Hi, I am a first year Math/FARM student from Vancouver, BC. I would like to get involved in MathSoc so I will need your support. I know you won't vote for me if there is no reason: well, I am fun, friendly, easy to approach and more importantly, I am responsible. Just to give you one quick example, ask anyone that knows me; they will tell you that I finish all my assignments the day after I receive them. I believe efficiency is important when it comes to representing you, so make a difference today and vote for me.

If you are interested, here is some of my leadership history. I could go far back to when I was in elementary school... but wait - there would be far too much to write and I wouldn't be able to fit it into 300 words. So I will just briefly talk about the things that I did in high school. I was the president of our school's MATH club and the founder of our first and foremost MATH WEEK (a whole week of math, how cool is that). Also, I was the VP of our school science club and an executive of the largest LEO (junior Lions) club across Canada consist of over 200 members. Furthermore, a group of young entrepreneurs and I were enrolled in the JA company program and formed a company of our own, where I was honoured to be the VP of finance in the company; it turned out that our company profitability was over 50% and thus we received the Best Company of the Year Award.

Convinced? Then act! Vote for Lily Tan!!!

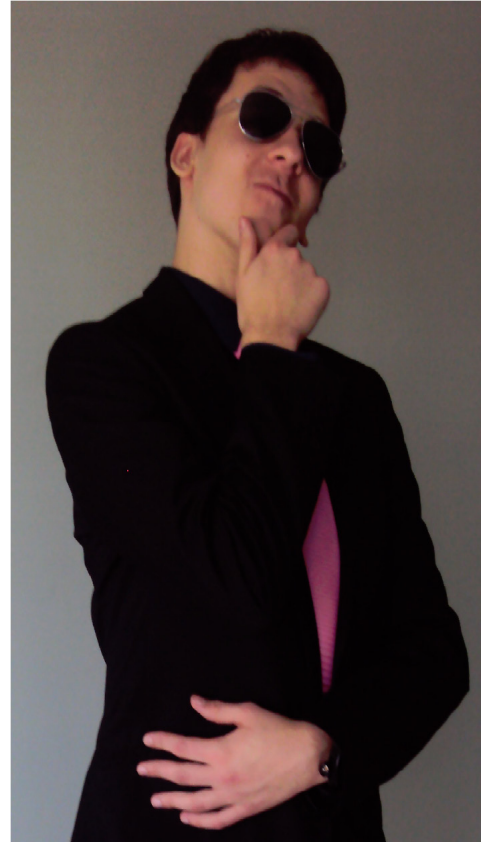
Lily Tan

Other First Year Rep Candidates

No word as of press time

- Yi Chen
- Matthew Cheung
- Xi Xi Hu
- Matthew Myrah
- Xin Yi "Sinyi" Shi
- Xiaoshi Wang
- Michelle Au Yeung

Dino Baron



Back in my days as a child, in a land before online strategy guides, I was the last of my friends to start playing Pokemon Blue. All of my friends told me to pick Charmander, because dragons are awesome, but I decided to rebel and pick Bulbasaur. Yes, I was young and foolish, but Bulbasaur made sense at the time! Brock and Misty were defeated easily, and everything seemed to be going great, until I encountered Blaine. Yes, Blaine, the second last gym leader, and the doom of any Bulbasaur-based trainer. His fiery monstrosities would incinerate any leaf-based attacks I would throw at them. I was defeated, and my previous tactics had failed thus far.

Although my Venusaur was awesome, and even knew Solar Beam, I discovered that it alone could not secure my victory. Instead, I had to backtrack and train all the neglected Pokemon that I had caught previously. My Caterpie became a Butterfree, my Geodude became a Golem, and my Lapras became a slightly stronger Lapras. After my team had been trained, Blaine didn't stand a chance, and neither did the Elite Four. I learned that day the true power of teamwork, and vowed from that day on, I would help my community and be a part of a strong team. I wanted to be like a Lapras, able to help out the team by Hydro-Pumping Blaine's Arcanine into oblivion.

You should vote Dino Baron for First Year Rep because I have the initiative to make MathSoc stronger, and because only together can we become the very best!

Dino Baron

Also running for: CS Rep (Acclaimed)

MathSoc Election FAQ

Wait, what elections?

Yes! MathSoc---the undergraduate Mathematics Society---holds elections to Council every year in the Fall, and periodically throughout the year to fill vacancies as they come up. And they're happening right now!

Who's getting elected?

All of Council for winter, spring, and fall terms of 2012.

What, all those terms at once?

Yes. Not all candidates will be trying to get elected for every term, but you will vote on all of them at once and then we'll evaluate winners for each term. This means you don't have to cast 18 ballots in the election.

Wait, how do I vote for three terms at once? How are you deciding who wins?

We are using the Schulze STV voting system. Your vote is a ranking of all the candidates in the race, not just who you like best. We'll plug the votes into the voting system, and we'll get an ranking of sets of candidates. The highest-ranked set with all the candidates running for that term will win for that term.

That sounds awfully complicated. Why'd you choose such a stupid system?

You don't need to worry about it. The voting system has been proven to have a bunch of nice properties---if you really care, you can read the paper---and it's pretty complex, but all you need to worry about is putting your favourite candidate first, your second favourite candidate second, and so on.

What if I like two candidates the same, or I just don't care?

We're hoping that the voting system will let you rank two candidates equally, but we'll see how much development effort that entails. Otherwise you'll just have to pick.

What is Council, anyway?

Council is the primary governing body of MathSoc. It sets rules, decides how to spend money, and makes statements of opinion to guide the University. Council has thirty-five seats. Five seats go to the MathSoc Executive, who do a lot of the day-to-day work in MathSoc, and the remaining thirty go to Representatives of the various academic programs, distributed based on the number of people in those programs.

How are the programs divided up?

The Representative seats are divided up into the following constituencies:

- Actuarial Science
- Statistics
- Computer Science
- Business
- Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, and Combinatorics and Optimization
- First Year
- Software Engineering
- Computing and Financial Management
- Math/Teaching Option
- Mathematical Studies and Other

If you're a first-year (that is, you're in term 1A or 1B according to your transcript), then you're in the First Year constituency. Otherwise you're in whichever one(s) your Honours or Joint Honours plan(s) are in. Most plans are in only one, but a few plans span multiple constituencies. For a full definition, check out the bylaws. If you're undeclared, you're in Mathematical Studies and Other.

How many seats are there for each program?

The tentative numbers, subject to approval at the general meeting on November 30, are:

- Actuarial Science: 3
- Statistics: 2
- Computer Science: 5
- Business: 5
- Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, and Combinatorics and Optimization: 2
- First Year: 5
- Software Engineering: 2
- Computing and Financial Management: 1
- Math/Teaching Option: 1
- Mathematical Studies and Other: 4

Who do I get to vote for?

You get to vote for each Executive, plus in one Representative election, for a constituency that you're in. If you're in multiple constituencies, you'll have to pick one.

But wait, I was going to declare later this year! What do I do now?

If you want to vote in a different constituency, you're out of luck, unfortunately. We don't have the resources to go through every student's future plans, and the rules are clear.

Your page says I'm in First Year, but I'm in my 2A! What's wrong with your page?

You probably didn't pass enough courses during your first year. If you don't have 4.0 credits (normally 8 courses worth), then you are still considered a first year student. Check your transcript; it will say which term you are in.

Are these questions all actually frequently asked?

Naw, you got us. If you have more, feel free to email them to elections@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

***mathNEWS* will return to
its normal zany self this
Friday!**