



Winter 2-14-1995

Math Contest for Central Illinois High School Students Slated for Feb. 25 at Illinois Wesleyan University

Bob Aaron
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

Recommended Citation

Aaron, Bob, "Math Contest for Central Illinois High School Students Slated for Feb. 25 at Illinois Wesleyan University" (1995). *News and Events*. 6302.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/6302>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

February 14, 1995

Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

Math Contest for Central Illinois High School Students Slated for Feb. 25 at Illinois Wesleyan University

Editor's Note: Kara Rocheleau, an IWU senior majoring in mathematics and economics, who chaired the IWU math contest planning committee, is from Roseville, Minn. Her home is at 1976 Evergreen Court, Roseville.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Upwards of 215 high school students from 11 central Illinois schools will compete in Illinois Wesleyan University's first annual math contest for ninth to 12th graders on Feb. 25.

The contest is sponsored, organized, and run by IWU's Mathematics Society, a 40-member student group established in 1992. Tian-Xiao He, assistant professor of mathematics, is the Mathematics Society faculty advisor.

Kara Rocheleau, a senior majoring in mathematics and economics from Minneapolis, chairs the five-person group, which worked for a year planning the event.

"First and foremost," Rocheleau said, "the high school students participating in the contest will get a taste of math competition. One thing we're aiming for is to get students to realize the various applications of math. The test will have applications on it--not just math theory."

The high school freshmen and sophomores will take an exam geared toward algebra and geometry. The test for the high school juniors and seniors is oriented more toward math at the pre-calculus and calculus levels. Each exam will have 30 multiple choice questions. One non-multiple choice problem is on each exam, which will be used as a tie breaker. Although freshmen and sophomores will take the same test, they will be graded separately, as will be the case with juniors and seniors.

Students from these Illinois high schools are participating in the math contest: Canton; Central Catholic (Bloomington); Fieldcrest (Minonk); Marquette (Ottawa); Metamora; Normal Community; Prairie Central (Fairbury); Sacred Heart-Griffin (Springfield); Springfield Lutheran; St. Teresa

(more)

Rocheleau-IWU Math Contest/2

(Decatur); and University High (Normal).

The schedule for Feb. 25 is:

- 9-9:30 a.m.--High school students arrive at IWU.
 - 9:45 a.m.--Students go to their pre-assigned test rooms in Shaw Hall.
 - 10-11 a.m.--Math Contest.
 - 11:15 a.m.--Lunch begins for students on a staggered schedule; Main Lounge, Memorial Student Center.
 - 11:30 a.m.--Math games/math videos (Shaw Hall), and IWU campus tours. IWU students will score the exams electronically while the high school students are eating lunch, playing math games, and touring campus.
 - 2 p.m.--Awards ceremony; Main Lounge, Memorial Student Center.
- IWU President Minor Myers, jr., or Provost and Dean of Faculty Janet McNew will award trophies, certificates, and plaques to winning high schools and individual students in various categories.

There was a \$5 registration fee for each contestant.

Recalling the responses of high school teachers to the IWU math contest, Rocheleau said: "Generally, they said it was a neat experience for their students and good preparation for state contests and other competitions."

Other IWU students involved in planning the math contest are:

- Mike Votava, a sophomore math major from Bradford, Ill., who developed the test questions and obtained copyrights and permissions for various math problems from various authors and publishers.
- Eden Ostermeier, a junior mathematics major from Chatham, Ill., who organized the games and activities portion of the program.
- Shawn Gravelle, a junior mathematics major from Momence, Ill., who was responsible for the luncheon arrangements.
- Erica Moore, a junior biology major from Chicago, who developed test procedures and organized the 14 proctors--all IWU students--who will administer the math test.

"All of us who planned the contest," Rocheleau said, "got a lot of experience planning a large event from formulating the test, ensuring copyright laws were abided by, to making sure the questions were fair, to

(more)

Rocheleau-IWU Math Contest/3

learning how to work with other people in coordinating our activities."

For Rocheleau, planning the math contest took on greater significance. Her career goal is to own an event planning company. "I'm a planner," she said. "I live to plan things. I'm a list maker. I like to make sure the details are covered. The math contest falls right into this."

Rocheleau will graduate from IWU in May, completing her double major in just three years. She is eyeing graduate school in a masters in business administration program perhaps at Northwestern University or the University of Chicago.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,800 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. In recent years, the university's endowment has grown to more than \$92 million; a \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$24 million science building will open in 1995. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 164 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *U.S. News* ranks IWU the second most efficient national liberal arts college--a key gauge of the campus' quality academic program and relatively reasonable cost. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition. IWU's 1994 freshman class scored an average 27.9 on the ACT exam, compared to the national average of 20.7.