

## WHAT'S NEW AT MATHFEST?

Portland, Oregon, August 6 - 8, 2009

### PAPER SESSION UPDATES FOR FRIDAY

#### The History and Philosophy of Mathematics, and Their Uses in the Classroom

##### Salon D

- The name of this session was misprinted in the Program Book. The correct name appears above.

##### Session I

8:30a.m.—11:50a.m.

- The **O'Keefe** paper, scheduled to begin at 8:50a.m., has been withdrawn. It will be replaced by a short break.

#### Fascinating Examples from Combinatorics, Number Theory, and Discrete Mathematics

##### Session 2

##### Mount Hood

8:30a.m.—12:10p.m.

- The **Holden** paper, scheduled to begin at 9:50a.m. in Session 1 of this paper session on Thursday, has changed times, and will now begin at 12:10p.m. in Session 2, Friday.
- Session 2 will be extended until 12:30p.m..

#### Matroids You Have Known

##### Mount Hood

2:00p.m.—5:00p.m.

- The **Cotwright** paper, scheduled to begin at 3:30p.m., has been withdrawn. It will be replaced by:

*Fixing Number*

**Jennifer McNulty**, University of Montana

3:30p.m.—3:50p.m.

What can we do to an object to break its symmetry? That is, how can we restrict the object in some way so that the only automorphism is trivial? One approach is to fix some of the elements. The fixing number of a matroid, is the minimum number of elements that need to be fixed. We give a sampling of fixing number results for various classes of matroids.

#### Exhibit Hall Prize Winners

**Katelyn Plaisier** correctly answered Thursday's Problem of the Day to win a copy of *MAA Contest Problem Book 8*.

**Thomas Eliot** was Thursday's Scavenger Hunt winner, and received a Portland Gift Basket.

### PROBLEM OF THE DAY

Solve the following problem correctly and be in the draw to win a copy of *MAA Contest Problem Book 9*!

**A box contains exactly five chips: three red and two white. Chips are randomly removed one at a time, without replacement, until either all the red chips are drawn or all the white chips are drawn. What is the probability that the last chip drawn is white?**

#### To Enter:

Submit your correct answer to the MAA Publications Booth in the Exhibit Hall by 2:00p.m. Friday. Winners will be announced at 3:30p.m. in the Exhibit Hall. All prizes must be claimed from the Publications Booth by 2:00p.m. Saturday.

#### Solution:

The answer to Thursday's Problem of the Day was 1/2.

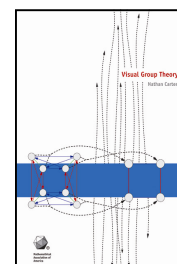
### BOOKS AND BOOK-SIGNINGS

#### New from the MAA

*Visual Group Theory*

by Nathan Carter

Group theory is the branch of mathematics that studies symmetry, found in crystals, art, architecture, music, and many other contexts, and this book covers a typical undergraduate course in group theory from a thoroughly visual perspective.



#### Today's Book-Signing

*Visual Group Theory*

by Nathan Carter

11:30a.m. — 12:30p.m.

Come to the MAA Publications Booth in the Exhibit Hall to chat with the author of this fantastic book, purchase your copy, and have it autographed!

Abstracts for all of today's talks are available at [www.maa.org/mathfest/wiki/](http://www.maa.org/mathfest/wiki/).

Saturday's edition of *What's New at MathFest?* will be released at [www.maa.org/mathfest/wiki/](http://www.maa.org/mathfest/wiki/) by 9:30p.m. on Friday, and will be available on paper in the registration area by 8:00a.m. Saturday.