



# TANGENTS

August  
2017

## Hood College Mathematics

Welcome Students!



### Welcome to new faculty and staff

**VAN NGUYEN** joins Hood as an assistant professor of mathematics this year. She earned her Ph.D. in mathematics from Texas A&M University and comes to Hood having worked most recently as a Zelevinsky Research Instructor and Post-doctoral Teaching Associate at Northeastern University in Boston. This semester, Dr. Nguyen is teaching Calculus I and Linear Algebra.

**KRISTEL EHRHARDT** joins Hood this fall as the new mathematics skills coordinator, working out of CAAR. Ms. Ehrhardt holds an M.S. in Applied and Computational Mathematics from Bowie State University and has experience teaching at many institutions in Maryland. She comes to Hood having worked most recently at Montgomery College in Germantown, where she taught a wide variety of courses. Ms. Ehrhardt will teach several of the MATH 098 and MATH 099 courses, handle many advising and mathematics placement issues, and coordinate mathematics tutoring services.

**FINALLY, ALTHOUGH** she is already a very familiar face at Hood, we welcome Jill Tysse as a full-time assistant professor of mathematics this fall. Dr. Tysse held the same position from 2008 through 2010 and returned to Hood's mathematics department in 2014 as a half-time assistant professor. This semester Dr. Tysse is teaching Applied Statistics, Calculus I, and Discrete Mathematics.

### Upcoming Events

**WEDNESDAYS 3:00 - 4:00 PM:** Math Tea in the second floor bonus room

**SEPTEMBER 12:** Registration deadline for Cumberland Valley Mathematical Modeling Challenge (CVMMC)

**SEPTEMBER 20:** Early registration deadline for Shenandoah Undergraduate Mathematics and Statistics Conference (SUMS) at James Madison University

**SEPTEMBER 23 - 24:** CVMMC in Shippenburg, Pennsylvania

**OCTOBER 2:** Registration deadline for Virginia Tech Regional Mathematics Contest

**OCTOBER 7:** SUMS conference at James Madison University

**OCTOBER 10:** Sonya Kovalevsky Day (at Hood)

**OCTOBER 12:** Registration deadline for Putnam Mathematical Competition.

**OCTOBER 21:** Virginia Tech Regional Mathematics Contest (at Hood)

**NOVEMBER 17 - 18:** MD-DC-VA MAA Section meeting at Christopher Newport University

**DECEMBER 2:** Putnam Mathematical Competition (at Hood)

## Sonya Kovalevsky Day 2017

THE MATHEMATICS department's annual Sonia Kovalevsky Math Day for high school girls will be held here at Hood on Tuesday, October 10th, the Tuesday of Hood's fall break. With the generous support of PNC Bank and Frederick County Public Schools, we are looking forward to welcoming students and their teachers from 12 area high-schools for a morning filled with mathematical activities. We aim to encourage these students to continue their studies in mathematics and to consider careers that involve mathematics by having students participate in fun, interactive math workshops, as well as a career panel consisting of women with mathematical careers.

AS USUAL, we can't make this event happen without YOUR help! We are looking for Hood math students to volunteer on the day of the event to act as mentors, guides, classroom assistants, and ambassadors for the math department and Hood College. This experience will look great on your resume! If you are interested in volunteering or if you have questions about the event, please contact Dr. Tysse at [tysse@hood.edu](mailto:tysse@hood.edu).

## Upcoming mathematics competitions

SEPTEMBER 23 - 24: The Cumberland Valley Mathematical Modeling Challenge (CVMMC) takes place at Shippensburg University in nearby Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. Student participants have 24 hours to respond a real-world problem using all of their mathematical skills and resources. Participating in the contest is a fun way to meet mathematics students from all over our region—and to try out your mathematical toolkit. For further information, contact Dr. Parson or Dr. Nguyen by September 12th and see <http://webspace.ship.edu/bjgalluzzo/CVMMC/index.html>.

OCTOBER 21: The Virginia Tech Regional Mathematics contest will be offered at Hood on this Saturday morning. Participants tackle seven tricky problems using techniques from classes such as Calculus, Discrete Mathematics, Linear Algebra, and others. For further information, contact Dr. Nguyen by October 2nd and see <https://www.math.vt.edu/people/plinnell/Vtregional/>.

## Regional math conferences this semester

OCTOBER 7: The Shenandoah Undergraduate Mathematics and Statistics Conference (SUMS) at James Madison University is an annual conference promoting undergraduate research in mathematics, statistics, and their applications. It features contributed undergraduate research talks, invited talks aimed at a general undergraduate math audience, a poster session, and panels about graduate school, undergraduate research, and math careers. Registration is free and open to the mathematical community.

NOVEMBER 17 - 18: The MAA section meeting at Christopher Newport University features talks by undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty on a variety of mathematical subjects, as well as a banquet on Friday night.

STUDENTS INTERESTED in attending either conference should contact a professor.

## Math Tea—Wednesdays at 3 PM

DROP BY Math Tea (near Hodson 252) each Wednesday between 3 and 4 PM to have a snack with the math department while we play a game, solve a puzzle, or create something interesting. This week we'll decode a 4000 year old Mesopotamian mathematical artifact and then make our own out of clay.