

## Odds and Ends

---

---

### *Putnam Competition*

The William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition is an annual event (under the auspices the Mathematical Association of America) in which over 3,500 undergraduates from over 500 colleges and universities from the United States and Canada participate. Every year, students have six hours to work on twelve extremely challenging questions, requiring very creative solutions rather than straightforward application of learned course material. There is a two-hour lunch break between the morning and the afternoon session. The examination cuts across the bounds of various disciplines of the undergraduate curriculum and also features self-contained questions that do not fit into any of the usual categories. Contestants can win cash prizes and prestigious scholarships. Typically, students prepare for this competition by enrolling in MATHS 271 for one credit hour in the fall semester. However, this is not a prerequisite for participation.

The top 500 contestants of the 67th annual competition were being honored by name and institution. Among them, ranked 282.5 in a tie, was Wayne Drake of Ball State University—a new Ball State record. Congratulations Wayne!

### *Indiana College Mathematical Competition*

This team-based competition has been held annually since 1966, hosted by the school where the Spring Meeting of the Indiana Section of the Mathematical Association of America takes place. Currently, about forty teams (of three students each) participate from all the top Indiana colleges and universities. The exam usually consists of six problems to be solved within two hours. This year the Ball State team (Neal Coleman, Wayne Drake and Nathan Pappas) placed a close second, only an epsilon behind the winners from Rose-Hulman. This is also a historic best for our department. Congratulations to the team!