

## Odds and Ends

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### *Ball State Council of Teachers of Mathematics*

The Ball State Council of Teachers of Mathematics met about once a month throughout the fall 2007 semester. In September, Ball State alumnus and current grade 6–8 mathematics teacher Brenda Mescher came to give a demonstration over the incredible TI-Navigator System from Texas Instruments. In October, BSCTM President Matt Younts attended the annual Indiana Council of Teachers of Mathematics Fall Conference in downtown Indianapolis. Topics from this 2-day conference were then presented at the October meeting. In November, three current student teachers, instructing a variety of courses ranging from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade math to Calculus AP, participated in a panel discussing their student teaching experiences.

BSCTM is proud to be a student affiliate group of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Membership is open to all students interested in mathematics education, particularly those preparing to teach mathematics at the elementary, middle, or high school level. Member meetings take place monthly and will be announced via email and signs posted around the Robert Bell building.

### *Putnam Competition*

Congratulations! For the second time in row, Wayne Drake ranked among the top 500 contestants in the William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition.

The Putnam competition is an annual event (under the auspices of 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 are being honored by name and institution.