MATH DAY 2003

The Department's annual Awards Day Ceremony was held on Thursday, April 24 in conjunction with national Mathematics Awareness Month. After cookies and punch and opening remarks by Ron Growney, Associate Dean of CLAS, and master of ceremonies Stu Sidney, presentations were made to the following students.

- **The Cigna Awardees, presented by Jim Bridgeman:**
- Tracy Dembicer
- Anelia Mickewicz
- Fausto Palazzetti

- **The Calculus Competition, presented by Stu Sidney:**
- Gregory Majoon - First Overall & First Intermediate
- Andrew Polonsky - Second Overall
- Ronald Pepino - Third Overall
- Joshua Faustman - Second Intermediate & First Beginner
- Melissa Grakowski - Third Intermediate

- **Noteworthy Performance on the W. L. Putnam Competition - :**
- Andrew Polonsky
- Matthew Coolbeth
- Zachary Chaves

- **Pi Mu Epsilon Initiates, presented by Jerry Leibowitz:**
- Christopher Gauthier - Rebecca Schuetz
- Troy Helming - Emily Slater
- Anelia Mickewicz - Minerva Catral
- Nicole Nejako - Krista O'Neill
- Surekha Patel - Regina Speicher
- Ronald Pepino

- **The Louis DeLuca Memorial Award for Outstanding Teaching Assistant, presented by Joe McKenna:**
- Regina Speicher

- **The Connie Strange Graduate Community Award, presented by Eugene Spiegel:**
- Molli Jones

It was very rewarding to celebrate the achievements of our students!

Awards Day has a long tradition of interesting and stimulating invited addresses, and this year's continued the tradition. The lecture/presentation ``Modeling River Rafting for the Grand Canyon National Park," was presented by **Catherine Roberts** of the College of The Holy Cross, who was introduced by Joe McKenna.

Here is Professor Roberts's abstract:

Learn about the journey of a mathematician working on a truly applied project: modeling white water rafting traffic patterns on the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon. This six year project has resulted in a computer program that is a tool for park managers. It is used to analyze alternative schedules for launching trips, with an eye towards optimizing the recreational experience for passengers while preserving the wilderness environment of one of the world's treasured places. Professor Roberts will not only discuss the mathematical challenges, but will discuss the history, economics and politics surrounding her project. She'll show video of white water rafting and will explain how a dozen undergraduate students have significantly contributed to this project.
