

# Mathematical Mysteries

## Summer Stretch 2011

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Hello Summer Stretch students (and parents),

The summer after my ninth-grade year, I attended a summer school program and it changed my life. It gave me the chance to learn as much and as fast as I could; to be challenged in new ways and pushed out of my comfort zone (just a little); and to find a few new friends that understood me, at least better than I was used to. I'm honored to have the opportunity and challenge of teaching a Summer Stretch course, that might offer the same to you (or your son/daughter).

Granted, my summer school was about oceanography, and involved a ten-day trip on a 140-foot schooner, sailing around Cape Cod, MA. I can't promise that we'll get the opportunity to look for mathematical mysteries on Lake Washington, but who knows? I *can* promise that there will be a lot of excitement, newness, independence, responsibility, and collaboration on this Summer Stretch voyage.

Right now, I'm a 5th-year PhD student at the University of Washington. I've taught many classes at the UW, but these all have strict course syllabi and time restraints, and mainly career-oriented students. Mathematics, like most things, is about the journey and not the destination. My main goal with this course is not to cover any specific set of material, but to inspire your curiosity and imagination.

You also ought to know that I don't see math as an isolated activity, detached from the rest of life. I try to integrate mathematics into my lifestyle as much as possible. For example, I've made math dance videos, and written a book about how math and non-math connect (math and music, math and travel, math and meditation, etc.). My band recently made an electro-pop-dance song based on my PhD research! This spring I've been living on the beach in Thailand, working 40 hours a week on my research, and spending the rest of my time rock climbing. You can find out more about these things on my website, [www.forthelukeofmath.com](http://www.forthelukeofmath.com).

I hope you're as excited for this course as I am. Please email me if you have any questions or concerns,

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