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Fantasy Football Update

The official department fantasy football league (the Baker Hall Irregulars) has nearly reached midseason. Here is an update on the teams, starting at the bottom of the league and working up to the cream of the fantasy crop.

**Team:** Hines for President  
**Coach:** Miriam Rosenberg-Lee  
**Season Record:** 1-7  
**Most Similar Real Football Team:** Minnesota Vikings. Lot of history, tradition, and knowledge of football. But just not very good so far.  
**Reason they might win it all:** LaDainian Tomlinson has the talent and ability to score a million points all by himself. For reasons only he knows, he has chosen not to utilize said ability up to this point in the season.

**Team:** BH 342E  
**Coaches:** Erin Donahoe and Terri Jones-Davis  
**Season record:** 2-6  
**Most Similar Real Football Team:** Buffalo Bills. Both teams works hard, but things aren’t going as well as they hoped this season.  
**Reason they might win it all:** Willie Parker and Peyton Manning could get really hot any minute now.

**Team:** TabbyCats  
**Coach:** Jillyn Roxberg  
**Season Record:** 4-4  
**Most Similar Real Football Team:** Denver Broncos. Like the Broncos, the TabbyCats might be good. Or maybe not. It’s hard to tell yet.  
**Reason they might win it all:** If Steven Jackson and the Rams get healthy, this team will start terrorizing people.

**Team:** The Constraints  
**Coach:** Erik Thiessen  
**Season Record:** 4-4  
**Most Similar Real Team:** Cleveland Browns. Like the Browns, my team is kind of hanging around .500, occasionally scoring lots of points. But no one is really scared of them.  
**Reason they might win it all:** As commissioner of the league, I have the administrative power to disqualify all other teams.

**Team:** Bryan’s Underdogs  
**Coach:** Bryan Matlen  
**Season Record:** 5-3  
**Most Similar Real Team:** Dallas Cowboys. Both teams score a fearsome number of points. But like the Cowboys, Bryan hasn’t been able to break through and beat the odds-on favorite to win it all.  
**Reason they might win it all:** Has Randy “I will score fifty touchdowns” Moss. Owns a winning record against everyone in the league except...

**Team:** The Cavaliers  
**Coach:** Brooke Feeney  
**Season Record:** 8-0  
**Most Similar Real Team:** New England Patriots. Both the Patriots and Brooke are crushing everyone in their path, and are potentially unstoppable juggernauts. Also, like the Patriots, I’m beginning to suspect that Brooke is somehow cheating.  
**Reason they might win it all:** Did I mention the way in which this team looks like an unstoppable juggernaut?
The celebration for Dr. Klahr’s chair brought out the department luminaries... and the paparazzi.

In addition to the endowed chair, David also received the ribboned chair.

So far, everything is cool
For those of you who weren’t there, the music was provided by three flutists. When Mike walked to the podium to give his speech, I tried to convince them to play the Imperial March from Star Wars. They ignored me.

As you can see, one of our younger faculty members favors a daringly revealing top.

Thankfully, Anna prefers a more conservative neckline.
Left: Dr. Klahr posing with one of the many chairs he received.
Above: Sharp dressers
Right: Audrey Russo, who did a tremendous amount of work organizing the event
Bottom: I’m not saying it was the best part of the event, but the food WAS darn good.
Marcel Just was recently featured in the magazine Carnegie Mellon Today. Jennifer Bails, who wrote the article, was impressed by Marcel’s research. But she was apparently just as impressed with Marcel’s, ah, charisma. You can read the article at this link. But here is one of the highlights: “Just, 59, has thick hair and a winsome smile and... [a] trim build.”

Several other descriptors of Marcel had to be left out, due to space constraints in the magazine. But our sources at the CMT indicate that some of the following descriptions of Marcel might have made it into the article, had there been more space.

1) Firm, confident handshake
2) Eyes that twinkle with whimsy
3) Well-manicured fingers
4) Pleasant odor
5) Snappy dresser

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PLB Shout-Out

This month’s PLB Shout goes to all of the graduate students (not all pictured!) who put together yesterday’s fantastic Halloween party. It worked on every level. I was appreciating it aesthetically, humorously, socially, and, most importantly, candy-tastically.

Thanks to everyone who organized it, showed up, dressed up, or brought food!
On October 12th, the Faculty got together at the Pennsylvania Athletic Association to discuss important issues. Here’s a taste of what went on.

The retreat gave the faculty a chance to have some really extended conversations with each other.

Or to check our mail.

But lunch and chatting was just a warmup. Eventually we got down to the serious business of formulating mission statements for our research and teaching goals over the next five years.

To get us through the task, the PAA provided us with limitless Diet Coke. Kevin Pelphrey attempted to single-handedly determine if the word ‘limitless’ was literally true.
Marcel Just recently rented a van and took his class (85-406 Autism: Psychological and Neuroscience Perspectives) on a road trip to Bittersweet Farms in Northwestern Ohio, near Toledo. Bittersweet is a residential farm, serving twenty adults with autism, and working to provide them with vocational services, supervised living, and a variety of other services and opportunities.

Marcel was kind enough to forward some of the pictures from his trip, which I’m sure the undergraduates in the course will remember for a long time.

Unfortunately, none of the pictures conclusively indicate whether Marcel wrangled any cattle.
Anna and Ken Need Your Help!

Anna Fisher and Ken Koedinger are having a baby girl. But they’re having a bit of trouble. Apparently, they have a first name picked out, and a middle name. And a last name. But not a third name!

That’s the name that comes between the middle name and the last name, apparently.

Anyhow, they want you, gentle PLB readers, to help them pick a third name for their baby girl. To get the ball rolling, the PLB has some suggestions. Once you’ve read over them all, be sure to click on this survey, and vote for the ones you like best. You can vote for as many as you like, or even submit your own!

The Star Wars Names

Luka or Leia Koedinger  

The Psychology Names

Markov Chain Koedinger or Ideal Observer Koedinger  
Rationale: They’re both psychologists, so a psychology-related name is appropriate. Plus, these names are just cool. I bet Ken wishes he could change his name to Ideal Observer Koedinger right now.

The Russian Names

Grushenka or Katerina Koedinger  
Rationale: I don’t know many traditional Russian names. I just took these straight from the Brothers Karamazov. But, that’s a pretty good book, right?

The Wisconsin Names

Leinenkugel or Badger Koedinger  
Rationale: If Anna gets the option of traditional Russian names, Ken should get the option of traditional Wisconsin names. Unfortunately for the baby, I know a bit more about Wisconsin culture than Russian culture, and these two names capture what Wisconsin is all about: drinking beer, and small vicious animals. Also, cheese, but that’s not a good name.

The Biblical Names

Chloe or Gomer Koedinger  
Rationale: You can’t go wrong with a Biblical name. Well, maybe if you picked Jezebel or Keren-happuch, you could go wrong. But there’s nothing wrong with Chloe or Gomer (yes, it’s a girl’s name; she was the wife of Hosea).
Super Bonus
Anna-Ken Baby Question

According to anonymous sources close to Anna and/or Ken (hint: the anonymous source’s title rhymes with ‘saculty fenator’), the baby is due in 4 weeks. By clicking on the survey link on the previous page (here it is again, if you’re too busy to scroll up a page), you can enter your guess as to the exact arrival date of little Ideal Observer. Be sure to enter your name, as well as your guess on the date. The winner will receive a fantastical prize.

Staff Council Report
By Ellen Conser

Most of the October meeting was a presentation and video offered by Ms. Ivy Ero from the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. We also hosted Ms. Ero last fall. She is a very inspirational speaker and perfectly suited to her job of motivating large organizations to contribute to the Food Drive. Give to the Food Drive this year if you have a little (or a lot) extra to spare, got a nice tax refund this year, hit the lottery, or are just a giving kind of person (whichever situation(s) might apply).

If you get the chance, check out our recently spiffed-up and updated Staff Council website. http://www.cmu.edu/staff-council/ Before this fall, the SC website was updated infrequently and was admittedly a poor resource for information about who we are, what we do, and upcoming events. That’s all changed, thanks to a huge amount of work by our former Chair, Ms. Jarrin Nevel, and others.

Thanks!
Thanks again to Psychology staff who came out to our recent Ice Cream Social. It meant a lot to me, because usually at these events I don’t see anyone I work with. Also it encouraged me that more staff are aware of what Staff Council does, and are really interested in the events we put on.

Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>HR Benefits Enrollment Deadline</td>
<td>No Later than November 9th</td>
<td>Online: <a href="http://hr.web.cmu.edu/">http://hr.web.cmu.edu/</a> Try to remember your pin number before logging on...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Drive</td>
<td>Runs through November 9</td>
<td>Bins all over, including the Psychology lounge. For a list of what you can donate, click. Scroll to the middle of the page.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cans Across The Cut</td>
<td>November 7 8:30-4:30</td>
<td>The Cut (duh...)</td>
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<tr>
<td>President Cohon’s Open Forum</td>
<td>November 27 Noon</td>
<td>UC Rangos 3. If you can’t attend, submit a question to me by e-mail (conser@andrew) or anonymously in my mailbox by Friday 11/23, and I’ll get them to President Cohon</td>
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The October meeting of the faculty senate was quite lively.

Much of discussion focused on the issue of faculty course evaluations. Some senators feel that students are ill-equipped to evaluate the quality of teaching, therefore course evaluations should be performed by other faculty members rather than students. This idea however did not receive much support, mainly due to the loudly voiced suspicion that going to each other’s classes to evaluate them is the last thing CMU faculty would want to do. More importantly, starting this semester FCEs are: (1) getting a new name (don’t remember what it is), (2) getting shorter (shrinking from 50 to just 3 questions), and (3) getting outsourced to an outside company (which promised to protect our privacy, but I’d still watch out for an increase in the volume of junk mail).

Also, we’re exploring the possibility of adding +/- back to the grading scheme for undergrad courses, but undergrads don’t like the idea. So it may not go anywhere fast.

Faithfully yours,
Senator Fisher

Did you ever wonder how Kevin Pelphrey transported his entire lab here from Duke? This picture of Liz Carter and Caitlin Hudac suggests an intriguing possibility.
Erika Taylor as a shrimp-kebab. A picture that will be revived when it is Erika’s turn to be Graduate Student of the Month.

Between Brooke Feeney as Professor Trelawny and a mysterious Dementor, the party covered the complete range of the emotional spectrum.
Jamie Jirout models the latest in Ravensclaw fashion

Nora is aiming a wand at her own head, completely ignoring Erika’s precautionary example
Hogwarts Halloween Banquet A Smashing Success

Award-winning journalist Rita Skeeter was first on the scene. Although she was only observed interviewing important house ghosts, she uncannily possessed knowledge of hushed conversations, which many believed to have only been overheard by beetles. Here’s what Rita Skeeter overheard and saw:

- Trelawney is way ahead of herself in reviewing grant proposals. Trelawney remarked, "This is easy, peezy, lemon squeezy." She will now be able to spend the entire day on Friday shopping with her friends.
- Madam Pomfrey’s daughter is having a miserable time in college trying to learn how to ride a horse.
- Dumbledore spent the night at Target, got himself locked in all night I believe.
- XXX has never heard of Harry Potter before and was sorely missed at the party.
- George Weasley was turned into a rodent shish kebab by Harry Potter.
- McGonagall was flamboyant as usual, dressed in her typical pastels.
- There was a real lack of food at the Halloween party. All attendees went away hungry.

Which is the real plate? Can you tell which is the official plate and which is the reenactment? Neither could Xenophilius Lovegood.
After the Ministry of Magic lost control of the dementors, the banquet had nearly been cancelled. Defense Against the Dark Arts professor, Remus Lupin, however, successfully fought off these fiends before they sucked out any souls.

Dedicated Hogwarts faculty were on guard for any suspicious or dark activity. Despite the necessary wariness, faculty appeared to enjoy the festivities.

Sirus Black, too clever to be deterred by dementors or unsuspecting faculty members, nonetheless managed to slip by Hogwarts security by taking the form of a large black dog.
The most notable event of the evening was Professor Trelawney’s prediction of Harry’s imminent death. Harry was lucky Madam Pomfrey was able to revive him.

Although grateful, Harry could not quite shake the unease ... until of course Professor McGonagall, through her unwavering presence of mind and logic, was able to talk sense into the boy.

Harry’s recovery, however, was not welcomed by all. Slytherins Pansy Parkinson and Draco Malfoy seemed unable to disguise their contempt.
All in all, the event was nonetheless successful and most Hogwarts students and faculty appeared to enjoy the festivities.

Congratulations to the Costume Contest Winners!

The votes were so close that we had to also include the honorable mentions, who in some cases were only a vote or two from winning themselves. Luna will find the winners and present them with their prizes. Thanks to all for participating!

Faculty Award Winner = Professor Trelawney

Staff Award Winner = Dementor Erin

Student Award Winner = Harry Potter

Honorable Mentions To Professor Dumbledore, Madam Pomfrey, Dementors Ginger and Theresa, and George the Shrimp Kebab Weasley