

## Future Mathematics Teachers Multiply the Fun in Math at Fifth Annual GeoJam

■ Registration begins May 13 at 5:30 p.m. Activities will be 6 - 8 p.m. at Champaign Central High School

■ **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**  
Hands-on activities. U of I seniors dressed in costumes to impart the fun of mathematics to Central High School students and their parents.

■ **POTENTIAL SOURCES**  
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■ **FOR MORE INFO:**  
<http://geojam.centralmath.org/2010/about/index.html>

A group of historians and archeologists will gather on Thursday night to reconstruct the ancient Mayan ruins of Palenque, but they won't uncover bones or artifacts. Instead, they will uncover mathematical theory and a lifetime of knowledge at the **Fifth Annual GeoJam**.

"GeoJam is for students, especially those that are not normally engaged in mathematics, to participate in fun activities that involve math but do not seem like the kind of math that you would typically see in the classroom," said Emily Dirks, secondary education student at the University of Illinois and organizer of the event.

The mathematics students in the **College of Education at the University of Illinois** will host GeoJam this **Thursday, May 13, in Seeley Hall at Champaign Central High School**, 610 W. University Avenue. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m., and the activities are slated for 6 - 8 p.m.

This event invites mathematics students at Central High School and Edison Middle School in Champaign, along with families and friends, to participate in teams and enjoy an evening of fun geometric challenges. Students will compete in teams of five to eight to complete various tasks,

such as rebuilding the ruins of Palenque using life-size Soma cubes, teamwork and mathematic principles. Each station draws on a different theme and a different mathematical theory.

"Students come to the stations and complete the tasks while having fun at the same time," Dirks said. After completing each station, the students are presented with a "Did you know?" sheet that explains what kind of math was involved in the station and the math that they were really using all along.

Not only is GeoJam a fun night for students, but it is also an event that involves parents and the community. Parents and friends come out to support the teams, and many people from the community show their support by donating items for the raffle and by coming out to join in the fun as well.

This is a great opportunity to **support the University of Illinois, Central High School and Edison Middle School students**, and to get involved with the surrounding community. We look forward to your presence at the Fifth Annual GeoJam!

For more information please visit the GeoJam Web site: <http://geojam.centralmath.org/2010/>

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