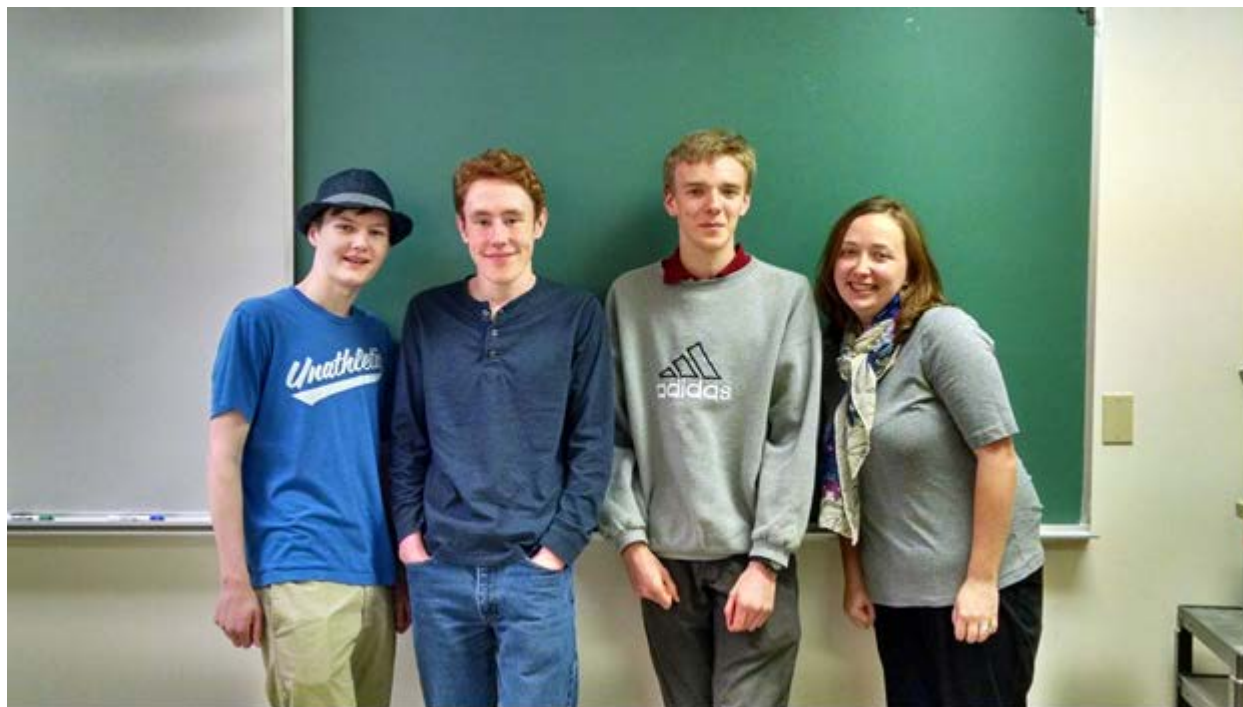


COMPETITION IN MATHEMATICS

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Left to right: William Shea, Devin Gent, James Fulford, and Kristen Ellspermann

Four Rivier University students, **Kristen Ellspermann** (senior Mathematics Education), **Devin Gent** (junior Mathematics), **William Shea** (junior Mathematics), and **James Fulford** (freshman) participated in the William Lowell Putnam Competition in Mathematics on December 6, 2014. The competition consists of two three-hour, six-question exams which require the students to use creativity and high-level mathematical knowledge to solve challenging, theoretical problems. No collaboration, calculators, or technology is allowed. Over 2000 students, nationwide, participate in the competition each year. The contest dates back to 1938 and is administered by the Mathematical Association of America. With a median score of 0 and a maximum score of 120, this contest is considered by many to be the toughest mathematics competition and is typically dominated by schools such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology. As one of our participants commented, "I'm certain to do as well as half the participants, but if I get a positive score that would be fantastic!" We should receive their scores later this semester. Regardless of the result, I applaud their courage, determination, and attitude. In the lunchtime and post-test discussions, it also sounded as though each had made some significant progress toward some solutions.

* **Dr. TERESA D. MAGNUS** is a Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Rivier University. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Virginia where she studied geometries coordinatized by non-division rings. Dr. Magnus appreciates the value of a liberal arts education from a Catholic college. In addition to her seventeen years teaching at Rivier University, she taught for five years at Saint Mary's College and completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Dallas.