

**Teaching Assistant
Lara Pudwell, Mathematics**

Lara Pudwell is a fourth-year graduate student at Rutgers. She is a graduate of Valparaiso University with a B.A. in Computer Science and a B.S. in mathematics, both summa cum laude, and a minor in Humanities. She received a Torrey Graduate Fellowship at Rutgers, won a TA Teaching Excellence award from the math department in Spring 2006, and is a Rutgers fellow in the new Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. She has received a PEO Scholar Award for her research, and is also the author of 6 research articles, one of them co-authored with a computer.

Lara has served as Graduate coordinator of the summer mathematics program at DIMACS, as a Teaching Assistant and Graduate Assistant since 2005, and as a Head TA in Spring 2006. In her work, she has been very involved with the integration of computer technology into the third and fourth semesters of the calculus sequence, serving as a particular resource for instructional technology among other course-related issues.

Those calculus courses incorporate problem-sets using the mathematical software package "Maple." Lara took a leading role in the development of new problem sets, and designed web pages to supplement them. She then compiled a comparative survey of student reactions to the old and new sets, leading to the adoption of the new sets by the department.

Lara is enthusiastically praised by both the instructors and students she has worked with as a TA. An instructor who observed her session introducing students to the Maple program called her "a master of the subject, and a master teacher." The students agree: in some sections of that course she has received a perfect rating of 5.0.

This outstanding work with her students, and her assistance in developing the math curriculum overall, makes Lara Pudwell a deserving recipient of this award.