21ˢᵗ Annual International Pi Day
with the Math and Stat Club

A talk by Dr. Iwan Elstak: Circle measurements and the number Pi in ancient Egypt, with Archimedes, the ancient Chinese, and the Indians from the 12th to the 16th century.

The history of the number Pi has evolved from the early beginnings as a way to find the area or perimeter of a circle to the ratios of diameters to finally a number that has fascinated mathematicians from all parts of the world. Very little is known or taught in math classes about the deep insights that mathematicians from China and India have contributed to the story of Pi.

The early Egyptians developed a method that lead to an equivalent value 3.1605 for Pi; the Chinese mathematician Liu Hui (220-280 CE) calculated Pi to several decimal units (3.14159) surpassing the Archimedean calculation; The volume of the sphere was calculated by Archimedes and the Chinese mathematician Zu Chong zhi (429-501).

We will study the Egyptian methods, the methods from Lui Hui and Zu Chong zhi and their solution of the volume of the sphere. and we will close with a short description of the Indian creation of the infinite series for calculating Pi using the method of differences in Kerala in southern India.

Thursday, March 12ᵗʰ
12-1 pm
Room 796 College of Education

Get there early for Pizza and Pi(e)!