There are thousands of amazing images related to math on the web. It might be worthwhile collecting some of these images, providing thoughtful written information about the math behind them, and constructing a web site. If done well it could be used by people who like math to increase their knowledge and might even help change the attitude of some folks who don't really know what math is or think they don't like it. Moreover, the process of constructing the site and writing about the images should be a great educational experience for undergraduate students.

Over the past two years work has begun on the web site at Swarthmore College. A beta version of the site, along with some preliminary images and information, has been constructed, and can be viewed at http://mathforum.org/mathimages. (You can find out about the students who worked on it from the About page, which is under Help for some strange reason—hey, they made it that way and this is a beta version.)

You'll note that the web site uses the same sort of software as Wikipedia, chosen because it's attractive, easy to use, and will allow other people to contribute information and images—interacting with these people should also be a good educational experience. We hope that these pages, as is the case with Wikipedia, will grow to contain substantial material over time, even including different approaches and interactive educational experiences.

Would you like to contribute to the Math Images Project? Then join us this summer in a joint effort involving students from Swarthmore College and Drexel University to develop content for the Math Images web site! We are looking for undergraduate students who have an interest in math and have experience authoring/programming interactive web pages with Java and Javascript. Activities involve discovering interesting math-related images on the web, learning about the math behind the picture, as well as the people who created it, then developing web sites that present the information and images in interesting and engaging ways. Events will be scheduled that bring together the Swarthmore and Drexel students to discuss their experiences and lessons learned. In addition to constructing material for the Math Image site, the project will also study whether these summer activities are educational and enjoyable for the students involved. Consequently, a questionnaire will be given before and after the project, and student participants will be interviewed for their feedback.

The position runs through the Summer term, pays a stipend of $3,800, and is for Drexel undergraduate students only. If you are interested in applying for this summer opportunity, contact Dr. David Breen at david@cs.drexel.edu. Be sure to include “Math Images” in the subject line. You should also call 215-895-1626 and leave a voice message in case your e-mail is blocked by a SPAM filter.