

You never know who will be sitting at your table when you decide to go on a bridge cruise, but it's bound to be an adventure ... and an opportunity to meet people with whom you're almost guaranteed to have more in common than the game of bridge! Conversations around mathematics, computers, math contests, and University programs flew around the table the first night the Korytowskis and the Rolfes had dinner together.

Kathy Rolfe learned the game at the early age of nine, when her mother taught beginning bridge as a fund raiser for their church. She became an electrical engineer working at Torte Products in Olathe, Kansas. Like her mother, she was interested in teaching bridge and became an accredited teacher through the ACBL. Over the past three years she's introduced more than 200 gifted and talented 4th through 6th graders to the game.



**Standing (l to r): Paul Rolfe, Eric Rolfe, Daniel Korytowski, William Korytowski
Seated (l to r): Cathy Rolfe, Whitney Berard, Joanne Korytowski**

The Korytowskis are a mathematical family: actuaries, mathematics' teachers, accountants, and computer analysts. Daniel, 18 years old, attends the University of Manitoba where he is presently in his second year of actuarial mathematics. He had a good first experience with bridge. When his parents, Joanne and William, introduced him to bidding, they randomly dealt the cards around the kitchen table. "Daniel averaged 15–30 points per hand — no matter how many hands we created that evening," said Joanne. "We told him this wasn't typical, but he was hooked. Wouldn't we all be with those cards!" Bill added: "Our family plays cards. They travel with us. With many card games we tend to change the rules, improving the game, at least in our minds, by involving more challenge and strategy.

Eric and Paul Rolfe, unsurprisingly, learned the game from their mother and grandmother. Eric majors in Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Missouri. Paul, only 15, started playing duplicate in 2002 and picked up his first red points at the NABC in New Orleans in 2003. His favorite subjects are Math and Spanish and he is currently a sophomore taking honors classes.

Whitney Bernard has been dating Eric for two years and got her first taste of bridge during Christmas vacation in 2003. "I'm beginning to understand that I at least need to be conversant with the subject in this family!" She's majoring in Math and Physics at the University of Missouri.

Different combinations of these seven players could be seen at the on-board games. It was clear that they had a lot of shared interests! 