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**John C Wierman\*** ([wierman@jhu.edu](mailto:wierman@jhu.edu)), Dept. of Applied Mathematics & Statistics, 100 Whitehead Hall, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD 21218. *The Class Joke Contest: Encouraging Creativity and Improving Attendance*. Preliminary report.

In each of my classes on probability and stochastic processes, I hold a monthly joke contest. Students are encouraged to submit original jokes relating to the course and its topics. The TAs and I select a few finalists, and the class votes to determine winners, who receive extra credit. In spring 2013, a student photographed me showing a slide displaying a joke, and put it on the internet. For a brief time, it was #1 on the front page of Reddit, and at the end of the year, it was #14 on the BuzzFeed list of "people who absolutely nailed it in 2013." The talk discusses the origin and evolution of the contest, its benefits in increased engagement and improved attendance, and provides some tips for faculty who might want to conduct one in their course. (Received July 14, 2014)