# L'Augarithms

## Mathematics Colloquium FALL Lineup

Colloquia are typically held Wednesdays 3:40—4:40 in Oren 113. Refreshments will be served.

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|---|---|---|
| Sep. → | 16 | Annual Meet and Greet (the Department, that is) |
| Sep. | 30 | Ben Jordan, Harvard University, "The procession of math science and art" |
| Oct. | 21 | Al Garver, Augsburg College, "(0, 2) - Graphs and Young Tableaux" |
| Nov. | 4 | Ken Kaminsky, Augsburg College,[1] "Force of Mortality, Elves, Vampires, and more" |
| Nov. | 18 | John Singleton and Ben Hoffman, URGO Project with Pavel Bělík |
| Dec. | 2 | Steve Fredlund, Augsburg '92, "Assessing Market Risk" |

## [1]This Week's Speaker

Ken Kaminsky came to Augsburg in 1987. Before that, he held teaching positions in Sweden, Upstate New York, Central Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. His undergraduate training was in Mathematics, and his graduate training in Applied and Mathematical Statistics, all from Rutgers University.

Ken will go over some basic concepts, and discuss the Force of Mortality. He will try to stimulate a discussion of the Force of Mortality as it applies to humans, elves, and vampires.
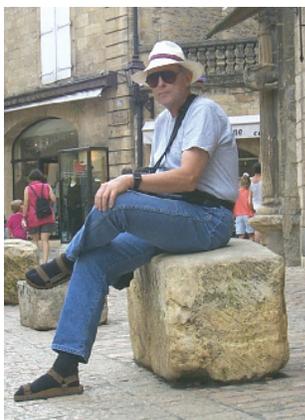
Ken Kaminsky in an undated photograph

Time: 3:40—4:40 p.m. in Oren 113. There will be refreshments.

## Math Humor

3. Find x.

Here it is X O
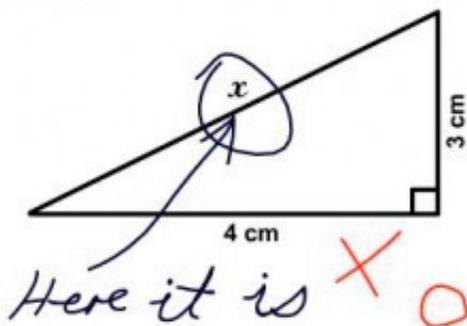
## Problem of the week...

We have two nice solutions of the "Aim for the center" problem of volume 23.03. They are from **Chien Do**, and **Al Jibra**. They both showed that the desired probability was about 0.2189. Here is another POTW:
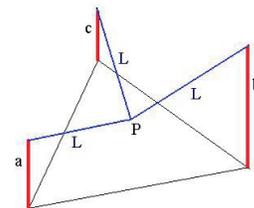
Consider a yard in the shape of an equilateral triangle with sides of length 1. At each of the corners of the yard stand tall poles of heights a, b, and c, respectively. What is the location of the point P in the yard from which wires, each of length L, can be run to the top of the poles? See the figure above.

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## Puzzle of the week...

There were no solvers of last issue's puzzle. Keep trying. In the meanwhile, here is a new one:

Two candles of the same height, but different thicknesses are lit. They take 4 hours and 7 hours, respectively, to burn all the way down. Assuming that both candles burn down at steady rates, how long will it take before one candle is twice as tall as the other?

Submit solutions to kaminsky@augsburg.edu., or under Ken Kaminsky's door at SCI 137E, or in the puzzles and problems box just outside of Su's office.

# Revisiting an Old Friend

Most of the terms below first appeared in the *Star Tribune* in the 1980s. We have not revisited them for many years, so they will be new to you for the most part. We have added a few of our own. Solve as many as you can and let us know your solutions.

1. 26 L. of the A.
2. 7 W. of the W.
3. 1001 A. N.
4. 12 S. of the Z.
5. 54 C. in a D. (with the J.)
6. 9 P. in the S. S.
7. 88 P. K.
8. 13 S. on the A. F.
9. 18 H. on a G. C.
10. 32 D. F. at which W. F.
11. 90 D. in a R. A.
12. 200 D. for P. G. in M.
13. 8 S. on a S. S.
14. 3 B. M. (S. H. T. R.)
15. 4 Q. in a G.
16. 24 H. in a D.
17. 1 W. on a U.
18. 635,013,559,600 B. H.
19. 5 D. in a Z. C.
20. 57 H. V.
21. 11 P. on a F. T.
22. 1000 W. that a P. is W.
23. 29 D. in F. in L. Y.
24. 64 S. on a C.
25. 40 D. and N. of the G. F.
26. 2 W. do not M. A. R.
27. 3 D. of the C.
28. 7 D. and S. W.
29. 50 W. to L. Y. L.
30. 12 D. of the C.
31. 13 D. in a B. D.
32. 16 M. on a D. M. C.
33. 90 F. between B. in B.
34. 2,598,960 F. C. P. H.
35. 100 Y. of S.
36. 195,249,054 W. to W. P. B. L

# Happy Birthday Wishes to Martin Gardner

October 21, 2009

Martin Gardner, born Oct. 21, 1914, in Tulsa, Okla., is 95 today.

An acclaimed mathematics and science writer, Martin Gardner is perhaps best known as the author of the "Mathematical Games" column for Scientific American from 1956 to 1981, which introduced readers to the joys of recreational mathematics. Moreover, in more than 70 books and collections of essays about Lewis Carroll, philosophy, scientific skepticism, religion, and many other topics, Gardner has also been a steady debunker of pseudoscience.

The MAA has reprinted several of Gardner's books, including aha! Gotcha and aha! Insight (in one volume), and is collaborating with Cambridge University Press in publishing new, updated editions of the collections of his Scientific American articles.

Meanwhile, readers can enjoy Gardner's latest collection of essays, titled When You Were a Tadpole and I Was a Fish: And Other Speculations About This and That, which lampoons bogus science, crank mathematics, pseudologic, and politics, among other topics.

But we're serious when we say to Martin Gardner, who is writing his autobiography, "Happy Birthday."

Source: *New York Times*, Oct. 21, 2009.

# Special Today—No Ice Cream

A few years ago, *Air France* distributed a list of English signs and notices collected around the world. We think that anyone who has studied a foreign language can appreciate the effort of the writers and share in the humor of the results.

**In a Granada hotel room:**
Please do not throw paper at the toilet.

**In a Mexican hotel lobby:**
All water in this hotel has been personally passed by the manager.

**In a Swiss mountain inn:**
Special today—no ice cream.

**In a Bucharest hotel lobby:**
Is forbidden to steal hotel towels please. If you not a person to do such thing is please not to read this notis.

**In a Paris hotel elevator:**
Please leave your values at the front desk.

**In a hotel in Athens:**
Visitors are expected to complain at the office between the hours of 9 and 11 am daily.

**In a Yugoslavian hotel:**
The flattening of underwear with pleasure is the job of the chambermaid.

**In a Japanese hotel:**
You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.

*More soon.*