L'Augarithms

vol. 23.03 Visit us on the web at augsburg.edu/math October 21, 2009

Mathematics Colloquium FALL Lineup

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

Sep.	16	Annual Meet and Greet (the Department, that is)
Sep.	30	Al Garver, Augsburg College, "(0, 2) - Graphs and Young Tableaux
Oct.	7	Ben Jordan, Harvard University, "The procession of math science and art."
Oct. →	21	Augsburg's Su Dorée, Jody Sorensen, and John Zobitz, Augsburg reveal their new spring lineup.[1]
Nov.	4	TBA
Nov.	18	TBA
Dec.	2	TBA

[1]This week's speakers . . .

Come and learn about the latest Spring Fashions (math-wise, that is).

John Zobitz (→) will tell us about his course, *Modeling and Differential Equations in the Biological and Natural Sciences;*

Jody Sorensen (←) will describe her course *Dynamical Systems;*

and Su Dorée (→) will tell us everything we wanted to know about *Graph Theory.*

Problem of the week...

There were no solutions to last week's problem. Here is a new one:

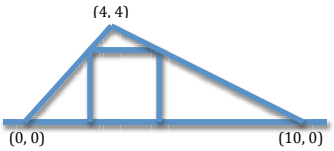
Consider a square with sides of length 1. Choose a point at random in the interior of the square (by throwing a dart, perhaps). What is the probability that the point you selected is closer to the center of the square than it is to one of the sides of the square?

From a POTW, with permission, from Bradley U's 'potw' page <bradley.bradley.edu/~delgado/>

Puzzle of the week...

We received very nice solution to the chessboard problem of vol. 23.01 from **Lauren Hovde**, **Matt Alto**, and **Jesse Helfort**, all from **Sandburg Middle School** in Anoka. **Ruth Senum** sent a very neat solution, and was the only correct solver to the Wedding puzzle of vol. 23.02. And now, a new puzzle:

If the rectangle withinin the triangle is a square, what is the length of its sides?



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.

L'Augarithms

The approximately bi-weekly newsletter of the Department of Mathematics at Augsburg College

Editor.....Kenneth Kaminsky <kaminsky@augsburg.edu>

Carry a press pass for the department

The editorial staff of L'Augarithms is looking for an Augsburg math major/minor who fancies himself/herself a budding reporter. We need someone to seek out breaking math news; interview fellow students and write short biographies of them; snap mathy pictures for us. Your qualifications? You should like to write. Unfortunately, this job does not pay in money—just glory.

St. Thomas colloquium series. . .

Augsburg math students may be interested in upcoming colloquia at St. Thomas's Center for Applied Mathematics. Future dates include October 21, November 18, and December 9.

Visit http://cam.mathlab.stthomas.edu for further details

Eleventh Annual Actuary Club Career and Internship Fair . . .

. . .at the University of Minnesota will take place on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 from 1:00—4:00 p.m. in Coffman Memorial Union, Great Hall. Attending this event is a great way to meet actuarial students and members of the business community. Local companies will be in attendance. Students should dress business professionally and come prepared to communicate their skills and knowledge. The Fair is free. Questions? Contact Stephanie Rose (rosex252@umn.edu).

I Can't recommend the candidate too highly

Some years ago, Robert J. Thornton wrote in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* that letters of recommendation are becoming increasingly unreliable for evaluating candidates. To combat threats of lawsuits for negative letters, Thornton created a lexicon of ambiguous recommendations. Here are some of his samples:

- To describe a candidate who is woefully inept: "I most enthusiastically recommend this candidate with no qualifications whatsoever."
- To describe a candidate who is not particularly industrious: "In my opinion, you will be very fortunate to get this person to work for you."
- To describe a candidate who is not worth further consideration: "I would urge you to waste no time in making this candidate an offer of employment."
- To describe a candidate with lackluster credentials: "All in all, I cannot say enough good things about this candidate or recommend him too highly."
- To describe an ex-employee who had difficulty getting along with fellow workers: "I am pleased to say that this candidate is a former colleague of mine."

Opportunities abound...

Are you looking for ...

... a mathematics-focused summer internship?
... mathematics research opportunities?
... volunteer opportunities in math?
... scholarships for mathematics students?

For further information, visit
augsburg.edu/home/math/opportunities.html

Cartoon Corner—Professor Fogelfroe