

AUGSBURG

(The Augsburg College Mathematics Department Colloquium Newsletter)

Upcoming colloquium:

September 25, 2014, 12:00–1:30 PM, Science 108

ROBERT VALLIN, LAMAR UNIVERSITY

Mathematics and Card Magic

Abstract: Recreational Mathematics has had no greater champion than Martin Gardner, who wrote the *Mathematical Games* column for “Scientific American” for 25 years. One of his favorite topics was mathematics magic, tricks that used no slight of hand or special equipment, just understanding of some mathematical principles. In this talk we will introduce several card tricks that are based on mathematics, and show some of the workings behind them. We will further see how one particular trick relates to some known ideas and leads to developing new mathematics.



Colloquium (and other seminar) dates for the fall semester:

Colloquia: October 8, 22; November 5, 19; December 3 (all W 4:30–5:30 PM, Old Main 105)

AugSTEM seminar: November 14 (F)

This Week's Colloquium Speaker

Robert Vallin, Lamar University

Dr. Robert Vallin earned his BA in mathematics at University of Maryland–College Park, and his MS and PhD in mathematics at North Carolina State University. Dr. Vallin recently started his first year as a mathematics professor at Lamar University in Texas, having previously taught mathematics for 22 years at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. He is the author of a recent book “The Elements of Cantor Sets: With Applications.” An avid fan of recreational mathematics, Dr. Vallin has given many talks on a wide range of mathematical topics. In the classroom, Dr. Vallin often engages students through “Inquiry Based Learning” (IBL) and he is active in helping other faculty learn this successful pedagogy. Among many outside interests, Dr. Vallin is well known for his fandom of Dr. Who, Facebook, and neckwear.



Featured Senior: Erik Voelker, 2015

(Over the year, we will use this space to introduce and celebrate our graduating seniors. We start with the president of our math club.)

Erik Voelker is a senior math and finance major. He was inducted into Pi Mu Epsilon last spring for his achievements in mathematics. Erik has been involved for over two years with the Unbounded Math Club, first as treasurer and now president. In previous years he tutored in both math and computer science. With his combination of majors, he has already landed a job with Northwestern Mutual as a financial planner. As of now he plans to turn that into a full-time job after graduation next May. His math major may also lead to opportunities in data analytics or actuarial science either within Northwestern Mutual or possibly another industry. His favorite math class so far has been Linear Algebra, because of the applications to finance. Congratulations to Erik!



PROBLEM OF THE WEEK #3:

Prof. Doitall is teaching four classes this term: Math (M), Gym (G), Art (A), and Latin (L). There are 11 students in each class. Each student is taking two classes. The most popular combo is M/G. It has twice as many students as G/A. How many students are taking A/L?

(Solutions are due to Prof. B. Lik (handwritten or e-mailed) by the end of the day Friday, Oct. 3, 2014.)



POTW #2 is still open for submissions (due Friday, Sep. 26, 2014)