Math Colloquium

An Alma College graduate with a degree in mathematics has many career paths to choose from beyond the traditional tracks. The field of Public Health offers many career options for those with a strong quantitative background including careers in biostatistics and epidemiol-ogy. **Dr. Ganesa Wegienka**, an epidemiologist at Henry Ford Health Systems in Detroit and an Alma College alumna, will discuss her particular path from Alma College math major to a career in Public Health and research. She will acquaint us with the different career options for math and computer science majors in public health research. She will also highlight other careers in public health for non-mathematics majors.

"How did a math major end up as an epidemiologist?"

Presenter: Dr. Ganesa Wegienka
Date: **Monday, October 3rd**
Time: 4:00
Place: SAC 113

***Refreshments at 3:50.***

Important Meeting for Seniors

All senior math and computer science majors, who intend to graduate this year, are required to attend a meeting on **Thursday, October 13th** at 4:00 in SAC 216. At this meeting we'll provide details about the MFAT as well as the written and oral components of the senior comprehensive.

The Putnam – Decide Quickly

The 2016 William Lowell Putnam exam is scheduled for **Saturday, December 3rd**. If you're interested in taking this exam, please con-tact Prof. Sipka by **Friday, September 30th**. The Putnam is an annual math exam for undergraduates, consisting of 12 tough problems. Cash prizes of up to $2500 are awarded to the top students.

Film Review: The Man Who Knew Infinity

Good movies that pertain to math are rare. For a film to actually reference math itself or depict the true story of a mathematician is even rarer. Among such rarities is *The Man Who Knew Infinity*.
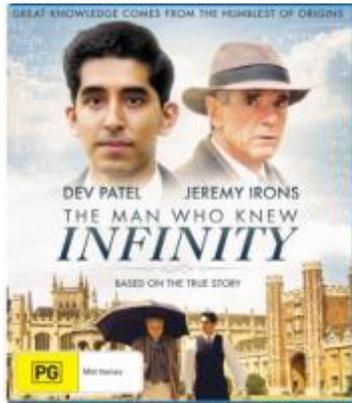
This is the story of a groundbreaking mathematician from India. His name was **Srinivasa Ramanujan**. In 1903, at the age of fifteen, Ramanujan obtained a copy of George Shoobridge Carr's *Synopsis of Elementary Results in Pure and Applied Mathematics,* 2 vol. (1880–86). This text sparked his interest, and he enthusiastically worked through the book of theorems.

Ramanujan's startling abilities earned him college scholarships. However, his lack of fervor for non-mathematical subjects lost him these scholarships. For years after that he struggled to earn enough money to live off of. Yet, in 1911 he managed to publish his first paper in the *Journal of the Indian Mathematical Society*.

The movie goes on to cover Ramanujan's move to England, his achievements, and his setbacks. All that he endured over the course of his short life is what makes the story of Ramanujan truly astonishing. The onset of war, poor health, and a lack of understanding are just a few of the obstacles he was faced with.

The Man Who Knew Infinity is anything but dull and lifeless. I first viewed the film with a close friend and we both greatly enjoyed it. Even non-math majors will enjoy this movie.

If you are enticed by the story of Ramanujan, I encourage you to watch the film. There is a copy of it available at the Alma College Library. Also, Math Club may offer a viewing of it in the near future. *Cheyenne Kalfsbeek*

Math Club

The Math Club meets on Tuesday evenings at 9 pm in Dow 137. *Everyone is welcome!*

Solution to Previous Puzzle

Suppose four towns are located at the four corners of a square. You start driving from town *A* and make a round trip at the following speeds: 30 mph from *A* to *B*, 40 mph from *B* to *C*, 50 mph from *C* to *D*, and 60 mph from *D* to *A*. What is the ***average speed*** of your round trip? The answer is not 45 mph.
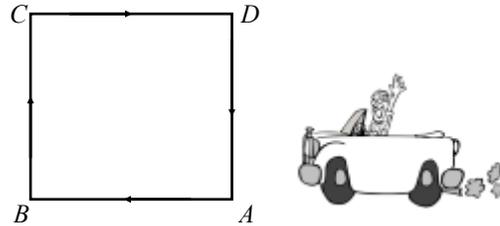
First-year student, **Mason Ippel**, was the $2 prize winner. The solution was 41.2 mph. **Prof. Henry Balfanz** also submitted a correct solution.

Puzzle of the Bi-week

Every box in the triangle contains a number that is the sum of the two numbers below it. For example, $B = C + D$. Find the missing numbers.

B=2016

C =   D =

X=   Y=532   Z =

M=   A=   T=   H=137

I =183   L =   O =185   V =   E =
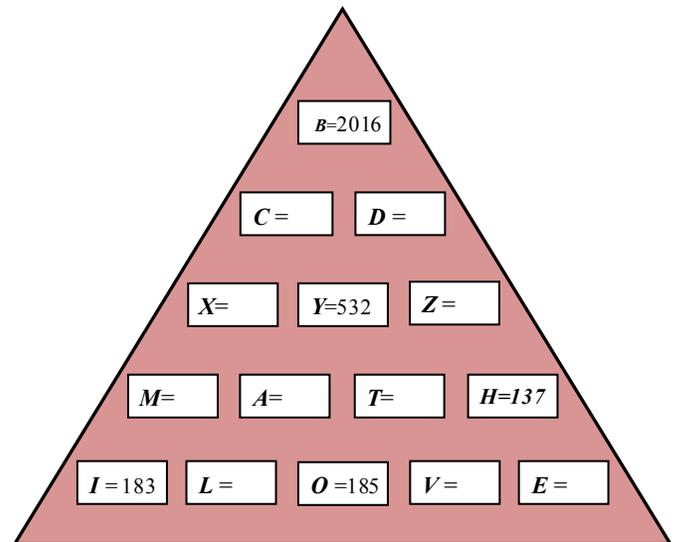
A prize of **$2.00** will be awarded to the 1st student who submits a correct solution to Prof. Sipka.

If you would like to submit an announcement or a short article, please send it via e-mail to Tim Sipka (sipka@alma.edu).