Next Colloquium – This Wednesday

Identity theft continues to increase. It consumes a wide array of resources from society. Trust is negatively affected. Identity theft can drastically impact an individual's life and well-being. In the business community, financial losses deplete profit and jeopardize stability. New and complementary methods to address identity theft are needed.

In this talk, *Dr. Susan Helser* will review two methods designed to present information about identity theft, one text-based and the other game-based. The game-based method, called **Fight Identity Theft** (FIT), was actually developed by Dr. Helser and will be the main focus of her talk. Her research confirmed the hypothesis that game-based learning would be more effective. Participants who experienced the game-based educational unit demonstrated greater performance than their text-based counterparts. Game-based participants' feedback indicated more satisfaction with the learning environment. Also, they remained longer in FIT.

Dr. Helser is currently an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Norwich University (VT), and she is a candidate for the position in computer science at Alma College.

"FIT Report: Identity Theft Education"

Date: **Wednesday, February 14th**
Time: 4:00
Place: SAC 113

Refreshments at 3:50

Feb. 22nd Colloquium - Actuarial Science

On Thursday, February 22nd, ***Brandon Krause*** will be our colloquium speaker. Brandon is a 2014 alum of Alma College, who graduated with a degree in mathematics. Immediately after graduating, Brandon went to work for Willis Towers Watson in Detroit. Willis Towers Watson is a leading global consulting firm that helps clients around the world turn risk into a path for growth. With roots dating to 1828, Willis Towers Watson has 40,000 employees serving more than 140 countries. The firm designs and delivers solutions that manage risk, optimize benefits, cultivate talent, and expand the power of capital to protect and strengthen institutions and individuals.

Brandon will be speaking to us about *internships and job opportunities* at Willis Towers Watson. Please make an effort to attend…I'm sure you'll enjoy his talk.

Math Competition – April 7th

The *Lower Michigan Math Competition* will be held on **Saturday**, **April 7th**, at Hillsdale College. This is a team-oriented competition similar to the MATH Challenge that we sponsor in the fall term. If you're interested in participating, please let Prof. Sipka know ASAP

Important Dates for SENIORS

This is the final term for all seniors, and there are several very important dates to circle on your calendars. Here they are:

Feb. 13: MFAT test If you scored sufficiently high on the fall test, there's no need to take this test.

Feb. 14: MFAT test

Feb. 23: Your paper is due. ◁ **New Date!**

March 13: Sr. Presentation
4:00 *Chase Shultz*
5:30 Senior dinner in Heather Room

March 15: Senior Presentations
4:00 *Alex Bieri*
4:30 *Kevin Essenmacher*

March 20: Senior Presentations
4:00 *Rendrall Banford*
4:30 *Nick Fuller*

The Math Club – Now on Thursdays

This term the Math Club will be meeting on **Thursday evenings** at 9 pm in DOW 132. All lovers of mathematics are encouraged to attend. And even if you simply *like* math, your presence is valued.

Solution to Previous Puzzle

Within a few hours of posting the previous problem, **Eric Ferrara** claimed the $2 prize. In front of a capacity crowd of two – **Peter Jonsson** and Prof. Sipka – Eric demonstrated his single cut that freed the square from its rectangular prison.
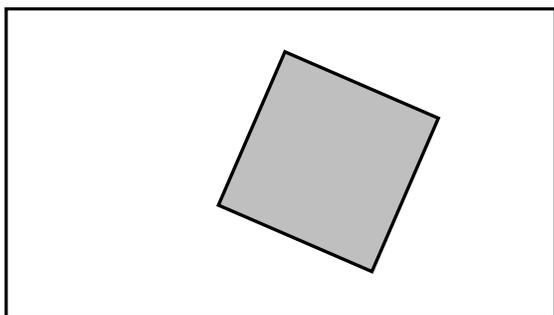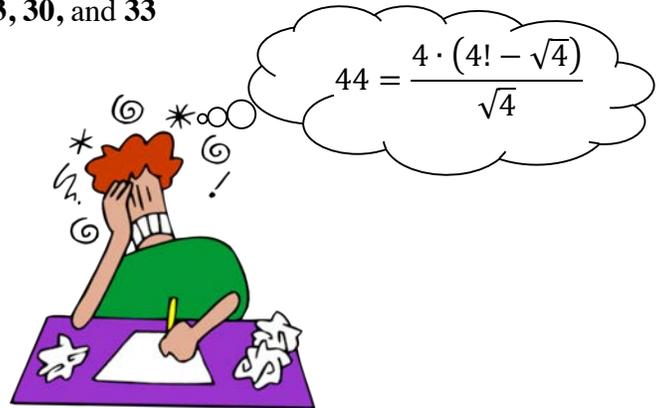
Puzzle of the Bi-week

Using common mathematical symbols and exactly four fours, it is possible to create arithmetic expressions for every integer from 0 to 100. For example, we can express **68** as

$$\frac{4!+4}{.4} - \sqrt{4} \quad \text{OR} \quad \frac{4!}{.4} + 4 \cdot \sqrt{4} \,.$$

Your job is to create similar arithmetic expressions using exactly four fours for the following numbers: **13, 30,** and **33**

$$44 = \frac{4 \cdot \left(4! - \sqrt{4}\right)}{\sqrt{4}}$$

A prize of **$2.00** will be awarded to the 1st student who submits a correct solution to Prof. Sipka.