

The Almagest

The bi-weekly newsletter of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. Your trusted source for news.

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March 12, 2010

Alma College
Alma, MI 48801

Senior Math Presentations

Don't miss your chance to attend the math presentations given by our senior math majors. All presentations will be given in SAC 216 starting at 4:00 with refreshments available beforehand.

Tuesday, March 16th

4:00 *Lacey Best-Rowden*: "Stirling's Formula"

4:30 *Adam Meinzinger*: "Ramsey's Theorem"

Thursday, March 18th

4:00 *Cody Stripling*: "Morley's Theorem"

4:30 *Dan Seals*: "The Five Squarable Lunes"

Tuesday, March 23rd

4:00 *Becky Spitzley*: "Sudoku & Graph Theory"

4:30 *Nathan Whitford*: "Simpson's Paradox"

Thursday, March 25th

4:00 *Alex Montoye*: "Partition Theory"

Your attendance would be greatly appreciated.

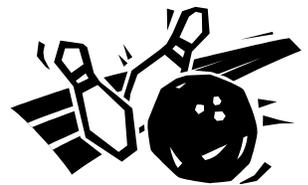
Senior Dinner on Tuesday, March 16th

Our annual dinner for senior mathematics and computer science majors will be held on **Tuesday, March 16th** at 5:30 in the Heather Room. Our dinner has always been a fun event with lots of good food, laughter, and reminiscing. So, please make sure you attend. If you've not yet responded to the invitation sent to you, please contact Deb Smith by Friday, March 12th.



Naked Bowling

Sorry for the shameless ploy to get your attention. The real purpose of this article is to invite you to participate in the 2010 Lower Michigan Mathematics Competition (LMMC), which will be held on **Saturday, April 10th**, at Grand Valley State University. This is a friendly competition among mostly small colleges in Michigan. Teams of two or three students will take the ten-problem exam from 9:30 to 12:30. After the exam we'll have lunch and head back to campus. We should be back on campus around 3:30. If you enjoy solving interesting math problems, then participating in the LMMC might be fun for you. If you're interested, please let Professor Sipka know.



REU Opportunity at MSU

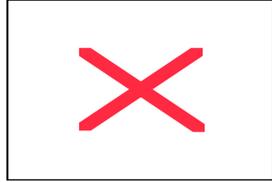
Lyman Briggs College at Michigan State University will be hosting a National Security Agency summer research experience from **May 31 to July 18th**. The topics to be studied will be in the areas of random walks on fractals, combinatorial identities, and mathematical games. Each student will receive a \$2,660 stipend along with free room and board. Candidates must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents who will be undergraduates in the fall of 2010. To be considered for the program an applicant should have completed a first course in calculus by May 2010. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Applications are due by **April 1st**. For more info visit the website:

www.lymanbriggs.msu.edu/SURIEM/index.html

Pi Day

On Sunday, **March 14th**, the mathematics community will celebrate Pi Day; and to honor that day, we'd like to provide you with a small slice of π .



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5

Seniors: Let Us Know of Your Plans

We would like to know what you plan to be doing after you graduate. Have you found a job? Are you looking for a job? Do you plan on attending graduate school? Whatever you're doing, we'd like to know so that we can mention it in the last issue of the *Almagest*. So, when you find out what you'll be doing, please send an e-mail to Professor Sipka or just stop by his office. Thanks.

Math in the News

If you are craving more interesting mathematics and computer science information, or you are just really bored, check out these sites:

- www.sciencedaily.com/news/computers_math/
- www.sciam.com/math
- discovermagazine.com/topics/physics-math

Some may require a bit of searching around, but they have numerous interesting articles.

MATH HELP CENTER

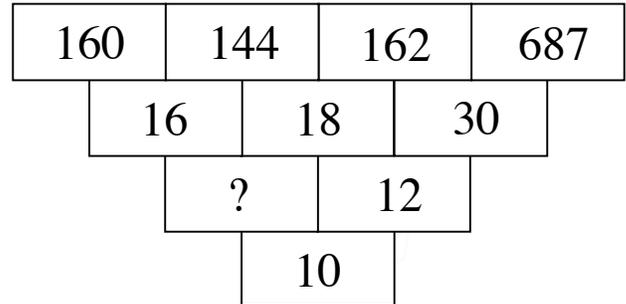
Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday

7 – 10 p.m.

SAC 309

Problem of the Bi-Week

The numbers in the diagram below follow a certain rule. Find the number that belongs in the box containing the question mark.



The first student to submit a correct solution to Professor Sipka will receive a small (and I mean very small) prize.

Student assistant:	Matt Mansell
Faculty advisor:	Tim Sipka
Distribution:	Deb Smith

If you would like to submit an announcement or a short article, please send it via e-mail to Matt Mansell (11mgmans) or Tim Sipka (sipka).