**Tour of Mathematics**

The next leg of the Tour of Math is a secret mission to Monte Carlo. Prof. Bob Dobrow will speak on:

Versei mckb crs Icvbez txcnr  
Ierwd Tcvke we sdtvulw wspw  

a.k.a.  
Random walk and Markov chain  
Monte Carlo to decrypt text  

The talk is Friday at 3:30 p.m. in CMC 206. If you're interested in attending but aren't enrolled in Math 206, there will be a few extra seats available.

**University of Illinois Statistics**

Are you interested in a graduate program in statistics? If so, consider the programs in the Department of Statistics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The application deadline for the M.S. programs is April 1. For more information visit their website at www.stat.illinois.edu/students/graduates.shtml or email Jeff Douglas, M.S. Admissions and Program Director, at jeffdoug@illinois.edu.

**Problem of the Week**

Your hotel room has a ten-digit keypad for its lock. You’re sure the combination is four digits, but you can’t remember them! Fortunately, the lock has a curious quirk—it will open as soon as the correct four digits are entered in the correct order, regardless of what came before. Thus, for example, if the code is 3456, the lock will open when you enter 123456. What is the minimum number of key presses needed to guarantee that you will open the lock (i.e. to try every possible combination)?

**Acknowledgments**

Students Dylan Peifer and Leo Betthauser, mystery contributor "OEIS Lover," and John Snyder in Oconomowoc all submitted correct solutions to the first week's problem. By lottery, Dylan wins a prize from the BBOP.
Upcoming Events

Here’s a list of upcoming events and talks for this term:

Open Student Meeting with Math Department Reviewers
Thursday, January 30, 5:00-6:00 p.m.
CMC 206

Mathematics Colloquium with Professor Jonathan Lubin
Tuesday, February 4, 4:00-5:00 p.m.
CMC 206

Prospective Math Major Meeting
Thursday, February 13, 12:00-1:00 p.m.
CMC 206

Mathematics Individual Comps Presentations
Tuesday, February 25

Mathematics Comps Gala
Thursday, February 27