

# MSCS Mess

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St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057

5 December 2014  
Vol. 43, No. 12

## This Week's Colloquium

<b>Title:</b>	MSCS Mega Menger Build-a-thon
<b>Speaker:</b>	Paul Humke
<b>Date:</b>	Monday, December 8
<b>Time:</b>	3:30 - 4:30 pm
<b>Location:</b>	RMS 600

**About the talk:** The Menger Sponge is a common example of a fractal and can be generated with a handful of simple functions, yet it is a fascinating object with infinite surface area and zero volume. In this participatory colloquium Paul Humke will introduce students to the Menger Sponge, and then help them build one out of paper.

St. Olaf will play its part in a world wide Mega-Menger Project by bringing a Level 2 Menger Sponge to life here on campus. The MSCS department has purchased the building materials for this and trainers are prepared to man each of the dozen tables that will be set up in RMS 600. Upon arriving (with some friends and relatives), students can grab some food, and then a table where the building materials will be stockpiled. The Sponge trainers will be there to get the construction process going. It'll be a loud and raucous time, but at the end of the day we hope to have brought forth a Level 2 here at St. Olaf. If you're curious, check out the MegaMenger Project on the web and then come and be part of it!

## Game Night Extravaganza!!

This Tuesday Dec 9, from 6pm-9pm (or as late as you want to stay!), on 6th Floor RMS, you can help celebrate the MSCS department's massive game collection by joining us for a giant game night on the 6th floor of Regents Math. Also, come see our beautiful new games display case in action!

We'll have lots of games to play, plenty of pizza, Doritos, Oreos, and other snacks to eat. Drop by with your friends, classmates, and even challenge a professor to a game of Settlers of Catan, Dominion, cribbage, Scrabble, or whatever else catches your eye.

Did we mention there'd be pizza?

## and for Your Reading Pleasure...

### a Math Joke

Noah's Ark lands after The Flood and Noah releases all the animals, saying, "Go forth and multiply." Several months pass and Noah decides to check up on the animals. All are doing fine except a pair of snakes. "What's the problem?" asks Noah.

"Cut down some trees and let us live there," say the snakes.

Noah does as they say. Several more weeks pass and Noah checks up on the snakes again. He sees lots of little snakes; everybody is happy.

Noah says, "Great! But... tell me how the trees helped."

"Certainly," reply the snakes. "We're adders, and we need logs to multiply."

### and a Riddle

The more of these you take,  
The more you leave behind.  
What are they?

*(The answer can be found in the next Mess!)*

*(Last week's answer: shadow)*

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*If you would like to submit an article or event to be published in the Math Mess, e-mail greimann@stolaf.edu*