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**Speaker:** David Galvin  
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Monday, September 16, 2013  
4:00 PM  
258 Hurley Hall

**Title:** A fair selection process that rarely works

**Abstract:**

The aging editor of *Annals of Probability* gathers his associate editors around him at a circular table, to choose his replacement. Given the nature of the gathering, he wants to make the choice by chance, so he sends a token on a random walk around the table, and names as his successor the last person to touch the coin for the first time.

This is certainly a random mechanism, but is it a fair one? I'll give the (folklore) answer, and then discuss a lovely addendum to the problem established by Lovasz and Winkler.