

MANY CHEERFUL FACTS

presents

How to Find a Spouse

a talk by Morgan Brown

12:10–13:00 on Wednesday, February 27, in Evans 1015.

*** PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF SPEAKER AND SUBJECT. ***

In many situations, we must choose the best of a series of possible candidates without any prior knowledge of what qualifies as good. In such cases the only way to proceed is to judge later candidates by comparison to the early candidates. We give a whimsical version of the optimal stopping problem, and a mathematical justification of the “37% rule.”

*I am the very model of a modern Major General,
I've information vegetable, animal, and mineral,
I know the kings of England, and I quote the fights historical
From Marathon to Waterloo, in order categorical;
I'm very well acquainted, too, with matters mathematical,
I understand equations, both the simple and quadratical,
About binomial theorem I'm teeming with a lot o' news,
With many cheerful facts about the square of the hypotenuse!*

— Gilbert & Sullivan, *P o P*

The website for Many Cheerful Facts is
<http://math.berkeley.edu/~mcf/>