

PROBLEM OF THE MONTH #2

OCTOBER 2009

Directions: Write a complete solution to the problem below showing all work. Your paper must have your name and Southeastern email address. Solutions are to be placed in the box for Problem #2 located in the Department of Mathematics Office, Fayard 308 by 4:00 p.m., Friday, October 30. No late papers will be accepted.

All papers with a correct solution will be entered in a drawing for a fantastic prize!

Questions concerning the problem of the month should be sent to either Dr. Tilak de Alwis (tdealwis@selu.edu), or Dr. Randy Wills (rwills@selu.edu)

Problem: Two tangent lines are drawn from the point $P(-2,1)$ to the parabola $y^2 = 4x$, touching the curve at the points Q and R . Find the area of the triangle PQR . Provide the exact answer.

