

9,3-Configuration Puzzle

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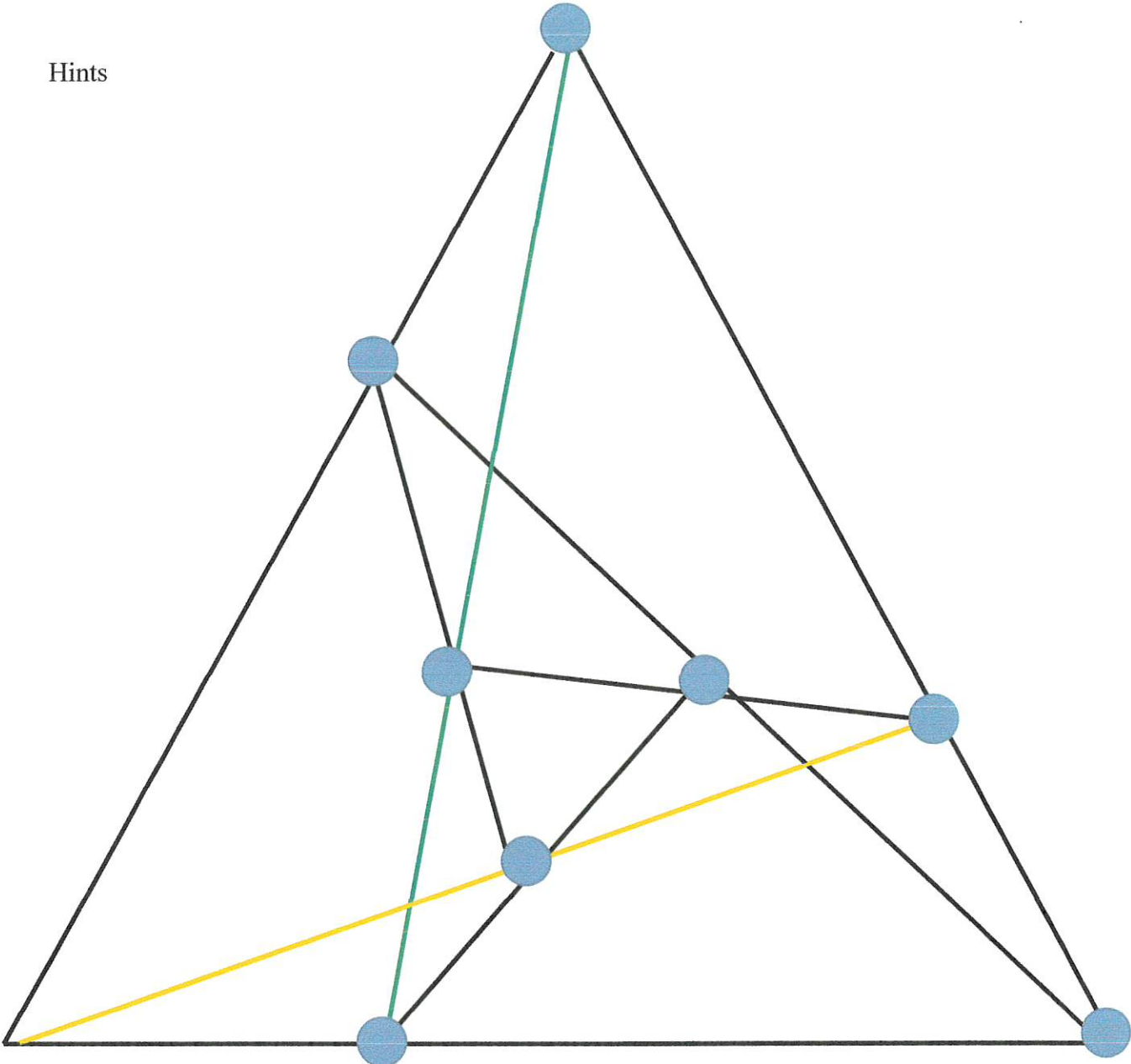
For this project, I decided to create a configuration puzzle. I was inspired by the puzzles Jeremiah had presented to the class and wanted to work my way through creating my own. I came up with my own phrase “Martin Rules”. From this phrase, I struggle to make 9 unique words that did not have more than one letter in common. It took me several attempts because once I thought I had nine unique words, it would turn out I had multiple words with two letters in common. I attempted to use my favorite structure, a hexagon, to create nodes in which to lay the words on. However, I could not come up with my own solution that I was sure was correct, so I decided to use O’Beirne’s Mousetrap as the template since I had read a lot about it.

I usually prefer to engage in projects that allow me to produce works of art as I generally do not get to do so as a biology major. However, after learning about configuration puzzles in class, I was intrigued. I have always enjoyed puzzles and find them to be entertaining. The puzzles we attempted in class were Jeremiah’s Celebration of Mind 13,3 configuration puzzle and his Norwich Bumstead Puzzle. It was difficult for me to solve these puzzles which led to my desire to become better at solving configuration puzzles. However, I could only stand to make a 9,3-configuration. I took the phrase, “Gardner Rules” and used the 9 unique letters to create 9 unique words to be used on an O’Beirne’s Mousetrap, my favorite design that we learned of in class.

This project is inspired by the numerous amount of works popularized and added to by Martin Gardner. It is also inspired heavily by Jeremiah Farrell, and the puzzles that he has created. I created my own phrase “Martin Rules” in order to gain the letters for my configuration puzzle. From this phrase I made 9 unique words using each letter 3 times, with no two words sharing more than one letter in common. I also attempted to create several different board pieces in which to place the nodes, however this was too difficult for me as I am not well enough educated on the theory behind the configuration puzzles. I wasn’t sure if my ideas would work so I opted to use the O’Beirne Mousetrap which I have read a lot about.

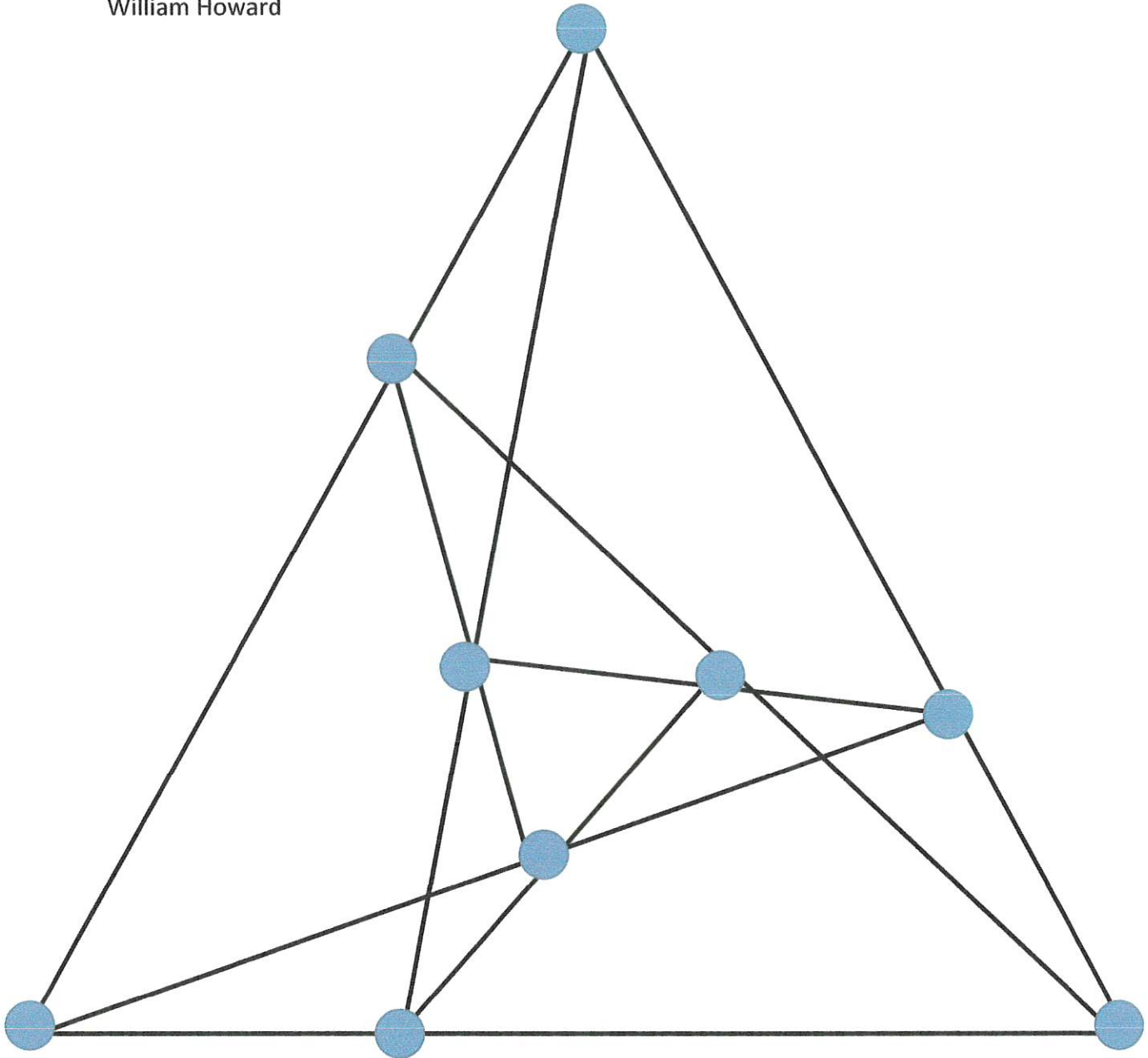
Through completion of this project I feel I have achieved the research and creativity goal as well as the willingness to explore new areas of knowledge. I read some papers by Jeremiah about configurations and mousetrap and tried looking into other author’s explanations of such games. I struggled coming up the 9 unique words since it was hard for me to use every letter three times and make sure the words did not have more than one letter in common.

Hints



Hints: Place the vowels on each of the colored lines (all Us on Green, all Es on Orange).

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A 9,3-configuration puzzle using nine unique letters from the phrase "Gardner Rules".

RUG, SUD, NEG, RAN, SEL, LAD, RED, SAG, NUL

Arrange the words on the nodes of O'Beirne's Mousetrap in a way that all the connected nodes have a letter in common.

Cut out the words below

RUG SUD NEG RAN SEL LAD RED SAG NUL