ABSTRACT: The linking number of a pair of closed curves in space can be expressed as the degree of a map from the torus to the sphere, by means of the linking integral Gauss wrote down in 1833. In the early 1950’s, John Milnor introduced a family of higher order linking numbers. In this talk I will describe a formula for Milnor’s triple linking number as the “degree” of a map from the 3-dimensional torus to the sphere; asteroids and bicycles will come into play along the way. This is joint work with DeTurck, Gluck, Komendarczyk, Shonkwiler and Vela-Vick.