



TCU Math Newsletter

An ordinary genius is a fellow that you and I would be just as good as, if we were only many times better. It is different with magicians [speaking of the great Hindu mathematician, Ramanujan]. They are, to use mathematical jargon, in the orthogonal complement of where we are and the working of their minds is for all intents and purposes incomprehensible. Even after we understand what they have done, the process by which they have done it is completely dark.

- Mark Kac

TCU Mathematics Professor H.G. Dollar

The TCU Mathematics Department lost a long time member, Professor H.G. Dollar, when he died on Monday, December 17, 2012. Professor Dollar was an Instructor in the Department well known for his care for and helpfulness to students in his classes. He was a wonderful colleague, and we will miss him terribly.

Professor Dollar earned B.S. and M.A. degrees from the University of Texas at Arlington. He had been an Instructor in the TCU Mathematics Department since 2000.

Senior Career Conference on January 26

TCU Career Services is hosting a full day Senior Career Conference focusing on preparing you for the job market and life after graduation. Topics will include Life After College, Creating Digital Portfolios, Benefits 101, a workshop presented by LinkedIn, and an alumni panel discussion. It will take place in the BLUU Ballroom on January 26, 2013 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. It is free to all December 2012 and May/August 2013 graduates and all graduate students. Registration is required by January 23rd and can be completed at <https://careers.tcu.edu/senior-conference.asp>.

Frank Stones Colloquium Talk on January 31

Professor Tony Várilly-Alvaredo from Rice University will present the talk "Explicit Arithmetic on Algebraic Surfaces" on Thursday, January 31 at 3:30 pm in TUC 246. Before the talk, refreshments will be served in TUC 300.

Using the classification of algebraic surfaces as a guide for geometric complexity, Professor Várilly-Alvaredo will discuss explicit techniques for computing obstructions to the existence and distribution of rational points on algebraic surfaces with a view toward identifying a boundary between arithmetically "well-behaved" varieties, like rational surfaces, and arithmetically "wild" varieties, like surfaces of general type.

Professor Efton Park wins Deans' Teaching Award

The winners of the 2012 TCU Deans' Teaching Award were announced at the TCU Commencement ceremony on December 15, 2012. Professor Efton Park of the TCU Mathematics Department was one of the three winners. Professor Linda Moore from Social Work and Theresa Gaul from English were the other two awardees.