<Baylor Mathematics> News Brief

October 2018

What's Happening?

Update from the Chair of the Department

It has been wonderful hearing from you these last several weeks. After each newsletter has been sent, I hear from many of you….in most cases for the first time. How fun to get to know many of you!

One of the math alums I heard from in September was Sonny Whorton. Dr. Whorton, a football letterman (1957-61) who earned dual degrees in math and physics in 1962, is an internationally recognized authority in biostatistics, epidemiology and environmental toxicology. Sonny was inducted into Baylor's Wall of Honor on Saturday, September 21. Congratulations, Sonny!!

I also heard that Dr. Dywayne Nicely, who earned his Ph.D. from our department in 2008 under the supervision of Dr. Ron Morgan, will become interim Associate Dean at Ohio University – Chillicothe in July 2018. Dywayne, we are proud of you!

The department is hosting the annual Texas Analysis and Mathematical Physics (TexAMP 2018) symposium on campus on October 26-28. TexAMP is a regional weekend meeting held annually. The meeting includes main presentations by leading researchers in their fields, and provides conference participants an opportunity to present contributed talks. This is the sixth annual TexAMP conference and the first to be held at Baylor University.

Keep the emails coming to me! Please visit our webpage https://www.baylor.edu/math. And see what we are doing on Facebook at Baylor Mathematics. Come and visit us sometime!

Lance L. Littlejohn

Homecoming 2018 Please join us on Saturday, November 3 after the Homecoming Parade (~ 10 am) on the first floor of Sid Richardson. We will have snacks and refreshments waiting for you. If you are planning to come, please let me know by email (lance_littlejohn@baylor.edu) on or before October 25. Thanks!
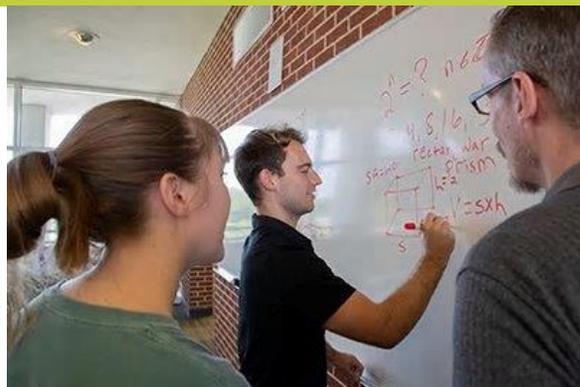
Math Curiosities

$$11 - 2 = 3^2$$

$$1111 - 22 = 33^2$$

$$111111 - 222 = 333^2$$

$$11111111 - 2222 = 3333^2$$

and so on….

$$3 = \sqrt{1 + 2\sqrt{1 + 3\sqrt{1 + 4\sqrt{1 + 5\sqrt{\ldots}}}}}$$

This 'radical' identity is due to Srinivasa Ramanujan (1887-1920), the Indian mathematical genius.

Have you seen "*The Man Who Knew Infinity*"? This movie, about Ramanujan, is terrific! It stars Dev Patel as Ramanujan and Jeremy Irons as G. H. Hardy. Available on Netflix.

Hardy remembers once going to see Ramanujan when he was ill. "*I had ridden in taxi cab number 1729 and remarked that the number seemed to me rather a dull one, and that I hoped it was not an unfavorable omen.*"

"*No,*" said Ramanujan, "*it is a very interesting number; it is the smallest number expressible as the sum of two cubes in two different ways.*" $(1729 = 1^3 + 12^3 = 9^3 + 10^3)$