

EIU DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE

THE PERRY LECTURES

RAMANUJAN'S LIFE AND EARLIER NOTEBOOKS

OCTOBER 26, 2017

4 - 4:50 P.M., OLD MAIN, ROOM 2231

Generally regarded as India's greatest mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan was born in the southern Indian town of Kumbakonam on December 22, 1887 and died in Madras at the age of 32 in 1920. Before going to England in 1914 at the invitation of G. H. Hardy, Ramanujan recorded most of his mathematical discoveries without proofs in notebooks. The speaker devoted over 20 years to the editing of these notebooks; his goal was to provide proofs for all those claims of Ramanujan for which proofs had not been given in the literature. In this lecture, we give a brief history of Ramanujan's life, a history of the notebooks, a general description of the subjects found in the notebooks, and examples of some of the more interesting formulas found in the notebooks.



RAMANUJAN'S LOST NOTEBOOK: HISTORY AND CONTENT

OCTOBER 27, 2017

4 - 4:50 P.M., OLD MAIN, ROOM 2231



SPEAKER:
BRUCE C. BERNDT (UIUC)

In the spring of 1976, George Andrews discovered Ramanujan's "Lost Notebook" in the library of Trinity College, Cambridge. The "Lost Notebook" is not a notebook, but a sheaf of over 100 handwritten pages made by Ramanujan during the last year of his life. It was not until the centenary of his birth on December 22, 1987 that the "Lost Notebook," along with several unpublished manuscripts, his "Quarterly Reports," and other miscellaneous papers, were published by Narosa. During the past 20 years, Andrews and the speaker have been editing all of the material in "The Lost Notebook and Other Unpublished Papers." Our goal has been to provide proofs for all of the results in the Narosa publication. In this lecture, we give a brief history of the "Lost Notebook," a general description of its content, and examples of some of the more interesting formulas found in the "Lost Notebook."

This lecture is made possible by an endowment from William Perry, former President of Eastern Illinois and former professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.



EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY™
www.eiu.edu