

Auburn Montgomery
Department of Mathematics
Colloquium/MAMS

Time: Friday February 16, 2007, 3:00pm

Place: Auburn Montgomery, Goodwyn Hall, Room 202

Speaker: C. Edward Sandifer, Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT.

Title: A Tale of Two Gammas

Abstract:

Leonhard Euler left us two different things that we now call "gamma," one the function closely related to the factorial function, and the other a rather mysterious constant related to logarithms and the harmonic series. Though Euler didn't call either of these things "gamma" (in fact, he didn't name them at all; that came later) he did invent them at almost the same time and for closely related reasons.

We tell the story of what Euler was trying to do when he discovered his two gammas.

Refreshments will be served at 2:30pm; colloquium begins at 3:00pm.