

The Charles Phelps Taft Research Center
and the Department of Mathematical Sciences

Present

Professor Persi Diaconis

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On Coincidences

Thursday, August 30, 2012
Rm 3210 Recreation Center, 4 – 5 pm

Coincidences astound us. They can affect who we live with and what we work at. I will review work of Jung and Freud. Sometimes, a bit of quantitative thinking can show that things are not so surprising after all.

On Adding a List of Numbers (and Other Determinantal Point Process)

Friday, August 31, 2012
Room 819 Swift Hall, 4 – 5 pm

When a column of digits is added in the usual way, carries accrue along the way. Investigating the distribution of carries (about how many? Are they correlated?) leads to all kinds of mathematics: random matrix theory; group cohomology; and Koszul algebras. This talk, based on joint work with Alexei Borodin and Jason Fulman, will be a friendly introduction to these topics.