

# math news

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## The Move Is Made

The Department of Mathematics has made the move from Dunkle Hall to our new home in the recently-constructed Center for Communications and Information Technology. The CCIT also now houses the departments of Mass Communication, Graphic Design, Computer Science, and Information Technology. Built by Gilbane Building Company and Ayers Saint Gross Architects + Planners, the 127,000 square foot edifice is located where Tawes Hall used to be. The cost: \$71 million.

In addition to academic offices, classrooms, and computer labs, CCIT features 14 break-out rooms, a 24/7 open computer lab with 30 stations, a Multimedia Learning Center (with planetarium), a telescope on the roof, a two-story atrium, and conference facilities with an exterior deck.

The grand opening celebration is scheduled for Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.

## GlowArt Lights Up FSU

Visiting artist Vinay Hegde presented his innovative new art form, GlowArt, to a large crowd at FSU on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Using his “magic lights” and canvas, he creates amazing pictures out of the dark.

Currently touring all across the US, Hegde was born in India, and studied painting, sculpture, and philosophy there. The nephew of our own Dr. Laxman Hegde, he has degrees from the Vancouver Film School and from the Jedi Masters Program at Lucasfilm Animation in Singapore. Also accomplished at photography and Tabla playing, he works for DreamWorks Animation in India. (DreamWorks was founded by Steven Spielberg.) For more information, visit [www.vinayhegde.com](http://www.vinayhegde.com).

## “Meet and Greet” a Neat Eat Feat

Students, faculty, and staff collaborated on this year’s “Mathematics Meet and Greet”, held Wednesday, Sept 17<sup>th</sup>. The food quality, measured on a five-star scale, came in just above  $3\pi/2$  stars. And the warmth and wit shared was at least as noteworthy as the food, mathematicians being wont and willing to both meet and greet.

## A Problem for the Ages

My grandson is about as many days old as my son is in weeks, and my grandson is as many months old as I am in years. My grandson, my son, and I together are 120 years old. What is my age? (We’ll give you about 1440 hours to work on it.)

## KME Corner

Kappa Mu Epsilon, national mathematics honor society, will meet on Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 5:00 - 6:00 in Rm 245. The agenda is TBA.

Officers for the year are:

Chris Colwander, President;  
David Foerster, Vice President;  
Olivia Elisio, Secretary; and  
Michelle Welch, Treasurer.

## Majors Fair Set

Students and student groups are encouraged to participate with fun and interactive displays in this year’s Majors Fair. This is a great opportunity to showcase your department and all of the aspects of it that enticed you and your students to select it as a major. It is being held November 12th from 11am-2pm in the ARMAH.

## Four Fields Medals Announced

Artur Avila is awarded a Fields Medal for his profound contributions to dynamical systems theory, which have changed the face of the field, using the powerful idea of renormalization as a unifying principle.

Manjul Bhargava is awarded a Fields Medal for developing powerful new methods in the geometry of numbers, which he applied to count rings of small rank and to bound the average rank of elliptic curves.

Martin Hairer is awarded a Fields Medal for his outstanding contributions to the theory of stochastic partial differential equations, and in particular for the creation of a

Maryam Mirzakhani is awarded the Fields Medal for her outstanding contributions to the dynamics and geometry of Riemann surfaces and their moduli spaces. (Editor’s note: Mirzakhani is the first female recipient of a Fields Medal.)

The Fields Medal is awarded every four years on the occasion of the International Congress of Mathematicians to recognize outstanding mathematical achievement for existing work and for the promise of future achievement. It can be compared to the Nobel Prizes in other disciplines.

## From Devlin’s Angle (by Keith Devlin)

... (W)hereas, *within mathematics* there are “right answers,” when you apply mathematics to the world, that certainty and accuracy is only as good as the fit between the mathematics (as a conceptual framework) and the world.