

MAMS Department Colloquium

Friday, November 20, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in Yost 306

Speaker: Wojbor Woyczynski, Professor, Department of Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, & Statistics, Case Western Reserve University

Title: Repaying the Debt to Our Masters: Steinhaus and Feller (and, yes, Michelson) Volumes

Abstract: Hugo Steinhaus and William Feller were iconic figures in 20th century mathematics. Steinhaus was David Hilbert's 1911 PhD student in Göttingen, "discoverer" of Stefan Banach, and my mentor at the University of Wrocław, Poland. William Feller, also a Göttingen PhD, played a major role in formal development of probability theory and, while at Princeton University, produced an astonishing group of graduate students who pretty much determined the development of that subject in the US. The lecture will tell their stories, how I got involved in editing the massive massive volumes of their selected works (with commentaries), how they are related to each other, and, surprise, surprise, how Albert Michelson fits into the picture.