

Protean Probability: How a Mathematical Theory of Probability Wrestled Answers from Randomness

*Exhibit by Doctor of Philosophy candidate &
Posner Center intern Benjamin C. Jantzen*

Opening Reception Friday, May 5, 2006

5-7 pm in the Posner Center

Exhibit continues through October

The mathematical theory of probability emerged abruptly during the Enlightenment. With a review of treatises from Huygens, Bernoulli, Montmort and de Moivre, this exhibit displays texts that represent different probability concepts bound together by a unified mathematical theory.

Mathematics' probability theory predicts results of seemingly random processes. Probability projects the possible outcomes of an event as well as the relative likelihood of those outcomes. It is the science of dice, atomic decay, the spread of disease, and myriad random occurrences. It also models processes we suppose to be in our heads, like the rules that govern our degree of belief in propositions about our world. The subject matter of probability is manifold, but the mathematics is strikingly uniform.

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For more information or directions to the Posner Center call 412-268-7272.