

MATH DEPARTMENT COLLOQUIUM



Dr. Cabral Balreira
Dept. of Mathematics
Trinity University
Friday, Sep 18, 2015
3:00-4:00 PM
DERR 113

Who's Best? Ask the Oracle

The field of data mining and data analytics is an emerging field of research. Methods are roughly divided into descriptive methods, such as rankings, and predictive methods, such as recommendations. In this talk, we will discuss the mathematics behind rankings systems and look at a new method, the Oracle method, developed by the author. We will show how to make sports predictions and discuss how the methods have been applied with success to ranking NFL and NBA teams.

Bio: E. Cabral Balreira is an associate professor of mathematics at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. His main area of research is differential topology with applications to global invertibility and discrete dynamics. Motivated by his interest in mathematics and sports, Balreira and his colleagues at Trinity developed a mathematical method, the Oracle, to rank sports teams and predict tournament outcomes. Balreira received his Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame in 2006.