

# Colloquium

University of Texas at Arlington- Mathematics Department  
*Proudly presents*

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3:00pm  
308 Pickard Hall

"Retaining Minority Students and Increasing the Number of  
Mathematics Majors"

## Abstract

Beginning in the late 1980's I began my work with minority students. There were very few minority students in first semester calculus at that time. Given this small number I was able to identify these students and to work closely with them. My initial goal was very straight forward. I wanted them to pass calculus. As I worked with these students over the years it slowly occurred to me how important mathematics was to their careers and that taking more mathematics was beneficial to them. My advising methods changed and I became more aggressive in recommending mathematics as a major to students. Six years ago I became Associate Head in charge of the mathematics major program and I told the department head that I would double the number of mathematics majors. This doubling has occurred and we ended the 2011 year with 638 mathematics majors and about an equal number of mathematics minors. In this talk I will describe the recruitment and retention methods that I have developed as well as point out the administrative structure that has allowed me to do this work.

*Refreshments before the talk and socializing following the talk*  
<http://www.uta.edu/math/pages/main/seminar.htm>