

Short biography: Rudolf Taschner

Rudolf Taschner was born 1953 in a small town near Vienna Austria. After the death of his parents, he attended one of Austria's most prestigious boarding schools, the "Theresianische Akademie" in Vienna, founded by the empress Maria Theresia in 1746. He then studied mathematics and physics at University of Vienna and also took courses in chemistry and philosophy. His thesis dealt with an application of Hermann Weyl's famous theory of uniform distribution modulo one, and was supervised by the renowned Austrian mathematician Edmund Hlawka. He earned his doctorate in 1976 and became Assistant Professor under Peter M. Gruber at the Technical University of Vienna where he continued his research on uniformly distributed sequences and the application of number theory in analysis. In 1979 he was invited as a guest researcher at Leland Stanford University in California. As a result of his stay in Stanford, Professor Taschner published two articles in the Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications and in the Pacific Journal of Mathematics which became the basis for his "habilitation," the postdoctoral lecture qualification in 1981.

As a Professor of mathematics at the Technical University of Vienna, Rudolf Taschner lectures students in mathematics, in engineering sciences, especially in geodetics, and future mathematics teachers. He published a series of textbooks including texts on differential geometry, complex analysis, analytic number theory and real analysis. His mathematical investigations remained with Hermann Weyl, but changed from number theoretic considerations to foundational questions of analysis; Professor Taschner worked to follow-up on the so-called 'intuitionistic' approach to the continuum which was promoted by Brouwer and Weyl in the 1920s and rediscovered by the eminent American mathematician Errett Bishop in 1967.

One of Professor Taschner's main interests is the propagation of mathematics to a broad public audience. He published several popular scientific books, the most recent appeared last year and is entitled "Der Zahlen gigantische Schatten" ("The Gigantic Shadows of Numbers") and was already available as a second edition six months later. Apart from several scientific talks at various locations - the University of Munich, the Technical University of Darmstadt, the University of Kaiserslautern, the ETH Zurich, the International University of Venice - he also gives popular lectures both in Austrian and on international institutions such as the Herbert von Karajan-Center Vienna, the Beethoven-Festival Bonn and at the Urania Berlin among others.

When the MuseumsQuartier Wien, one of the ten largest museum complexes in the world, decided to dedicate some of its space to cultural institutions of the 21st century, Professor Taschner and colleagues of the Technical University of Vienna decided to participate and promoted an institution called "math.space" that was intended to present mathematics as an eminent cultural achievement to the public. In January 2003, math.space was established and inaugurated with a speech by Don Zagier about the beauty of mathematics. Since then, nearly one thousand events have taken place in math.space, including activities for children (beginning with the age of four and a half), with pupils in primary schools and in secondary schools, lectures and workshops for young adults who want to know about the possibility of pursuing mathematics in their future careers, and a series of lectures on various topics in connection to mathematics – for instance a series called "Einstein rechnet" ("Einstein does mathematics") in which the mathematics hidden behind Einstein's famous theories is communicated in layman's language. The success of math.space probably contributed to decision of the Austrian

Association of Journalists In Science to bestow the title "Scientist of The Year 2004" upon Professor Taschner.

Rudolf Taschner is married and has two children. His wife Bianca is also involved in math.space and accounts for the organization and for the public relations of the exhibit.