Jenny G. Fuselier* (jenny.fuselier@usma.edu). Traces of Hecke operators in level 1 and Gaussian hypergeometric functions.

In this talk, we explore relationships between traces of Hecke operators in level 1, counting points on a family of elliptic curves over \mathbb{F}_p , and values of a $_2F_1$ hypergeometric function over \mathbb{F}_p . In particular, for primes p congruent to 1 mod 12, we present a formula for Ramanujan's tau function at p in terms of 10^{th} powers of a hypergeometric function. We also present a recursive formula for the traces of Hecke operators in level 1 in terms of the same Gaussian hypergeometric function. (Received September 12, 2008)