Carl Prather
[26, 34, 1977, 2009, 2, 3, 0]

   Carl Prather attended Trinity College in the early 1970s where he received his undergraduate education. Prather later attended Northwestern as a graduate student where he received his Master's degree and Ph.D. in mathematics. He wrote his dissertation on *Special Classes whose Growth and Zeroes are Restricted*. His faculty advisor was Ralph Phillip Boas Jr. Prather has since retired but he taught at Virginia Polytechnic Institute continuing his research and lecturing in Math. He mainly taught differential equations and courses in complex analysis. He specialized in Complex Analysis and Operator Theory.

   Prather has been called one of the most influential and highly published black mathematicians in the world. The *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* ranked him as 5th on their most highly cited black mathematicians. Prather's papers were consistently regarded as elegant and substantial by his peers. He frequently gave talks at other universities, including HBCU's and some universities all over the country. He also attended a conference in 1995 called the Conference for African American Researchers in Mathematical Sciences in Berkley, California.

   Prather retired in 2014 and was given the title of Professor Emeritus that same year. Prather had been a member of the University since 1977 and his intense style of teaching and analysis were widely recognized and appreciated. His emphatic and popular teaching style was often called "The Prather Experience" by students at Virginia Tech where he taught. There is even a video called "Carl Prather for President" that has over 15,000 views, that shows his animated and upbeat style of teaching.

   His work relates slightly to that of Ramanujan in that the two men studied Complex Analysis and some related fields. Prather's work regularly employed the ideas and concepts of Ramanujan and Erdos in his studies. Prather has published numerous papers in complex analysis from Fourier transforms to the oscillation of derivatives to uniqueness theorems. He has also contributed to the Pacific Journal of Mathematics with his work on the zeroes of derivatives.