

# BLACK MATH HISTORY

## HIDDEN FIGURES REVEALED



### HERVEY ABOTSI OSU MATHEMATICS 2008

*"Math isn't easy, but it's worth it."*

*- Hervey Abotsi -*

**Hometown:** Lome, Togo

**Current Occupation:** Actuary

**Professional Interests:** Insurance; Finance;  
Risk management

**Hobbies:** Gardening; Sports; History;  
Geography; Economics

### MY MATH STORY

Describe an experience (or more than one) that helped you discover/cultivate your interest in the mathematical sciences.

I can't think of specific experiences, but I have always been fascinated by the elegance of mathematical proofs. It was natural for me to pursue the subject because even though it didn't always come easy, there was a certain beauty mathematics that I couldn't ignore.

What motivated you to study math at Ohio State?

Starting out as an actuarial science major, I switched to a pure math major because I was seeking a stronger theoretical grounding in mathematics.

How has your math degree influenced your life after graduation?

The mathematical grounding I acquired helped me be successful on the more math-heavy actuarial exams.

What personal or professional accomplishment(s) are you most proud of?

During College:

Being able to successfully complete real analysis and abstract algebra simultaneously despite advice suggesting that it would be too challenging.

After College:

*Professionally* - becoming a credentialed actuary (Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society) and leading a team of actuaries for a fortune 100 insurance company.

*Personally:* Meeting my wife and starting a family with her.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY