

BLACK MATH HISTORY

HIDDEN FIGURES REVEALED



NIMA DAHIR OSU MATHEMATICS, ECONOMICS 2016

"It can be isolating and disheartening to not see yourself in your discipline. But I call on students to find and build community within and outside of math and be fearless in your pursuit of your goals so that you may, as others have done for you, pave a way for future generations."

-Nima Dahir -

Hometown: Columbus, Ohio

Current Occupation: PhD Candidate in Sociology

Professional Interests: I am an academic sociologist largely interested in racial inequality, immigration, and spatial inequality.

Hobbies: I love to be in nature, I enjoy hiking and running! I also love engaging with, reading about, and writing about movies and music.

MY MATH STORY

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

As a high schooler, I found joy in the puzzle nature of mathematics. I enjoyed seeing a problem, the various ways in which it could be addressed, and beginning the process of solving it. The satisfaction of solving a problem was unparalleled in my other academic pursuits. This propensity toward math was encouraged by my teachers, who sat with me, solved problems with me, and considered extensions and applications beyond our classroom.

What motivated you to study math at Ohio State?

I found that mathematics encouraged me to think creatively and helped build my problem solving skills. I knew that what I learned in mathematics, namely, the logic and approach to problems, would be applicable in whatever career I chose.

How has your math degree influenced your life after graduation?

I frequently harken back to the skills I gained in my math degree. When I work on research projects now, I follow the strategies I learned in my math degree, seeing the high-level problem, identifying the sub-problems, and allowing logic to lead me to a conclusion. More technically, the statistics training I received as a math major has been immensely helpful in my research career.

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

While at Ohio State, I was proud of my ability to take on the challenges of the math degree, work hard in my courses, and know that I always did my best. Since graduation from OSU, I am proud of my pursuit of a PhD



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