

BLACK MATH HISTORY

HIDDEN FIGURES REVEALED



RANDY LATTIMORE OSU MATHEMATICS 1992

"My love of mathematics feeds my ABILITIES and starve my FEARS. Always self-promote, partake in self-care, and exercise self-discipline. Most people care about at least one concept. Indulge yourself by tending to the above three concepts and during the process be patient with yourself."

-Randy Lattimore -

Hometown: Macon, Georgia

Current Occupation: Mathematics Teacher

Professional Interests: Keeping up with Professional Development (journals, seminars, occasional education coursework)

Hobbies: Card Games (Bid Whist, Spades, and Tunk); Reading Mathematics Textbooks

MY MATH STORY

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

After graduating from college, I worked at the high school level for one year. That job sparked my interest in going to graduate school in mathematics. I majored in mathematics as an undergraduate, but, even so, did not necessarily see mathematics as a path to further study or a life of studying and doing mathematics as a profession. I really did not know mathematicians, and even going through undergraduate, I did not see myself as a college professor or working within the ivory tower. Through encouragement from Coach Roosevelt Coleman and Coach Alfred Ogden, I returned to graduate school in mathematics, and really immersed myself in life-long learning—and it was wonderful.

What motivated you to study math at Ohio State?

As an undergraduate at Savannah State University, Mr. Walter W. Leftwich, Mrs. Jacqueline Byers, and Dr. Prince A. Jackson provided a triad of effective encouragement, mathematical challenges and supreme support. I became truly better mathematics student, an evolving scholar, and an extraordinary person, from having known and worked with them. I would also like to thank Dr. Ronald B. McFadden for having the strength and courage to invite me on the trip of Savannah State students that would attend the Graduate and Professional Schools Visitation Day (GPSVD) at The Ohio State University. Dr. McFadden believed in me when I did not have the strength or courage to believe in my abilities to attend graduate school.

How has your mathematics degree influenced your career?

In my career, Mathematics has ALWAYS been very important. It was important then, as it is now, as I continue to encourage my general education students and my AP Statistics students at the high school where I teach. My career in mathematics was and still is a wise choice. I encourage my students to go beyond the classroom and into the global market where using quantitative reasoning is a reality. Mathematics plays a crucial role in deciding policies that affect our lives, policies ranging from healthcare decisions, to the environment, to life-changing choices to multi-million dollar investments.



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