Latinxs and Hispanics in Mathematical Sciences

Ricardo Conceição

Ricardo Conceição was born in Feira de Santana, Bahia, Brazil. From a very young age, he knew he wanted to be an inventor, scientist, or journalist. However, at thirteen, he discovered that there were people who studied mathematics for a living, and he decided that he would go to college to learn more about mathematics. Dr. Conceição became a major in Math Education (Licenciatura em Matemática) at UEFS - Brazil. The wonderful mentors he had during this period opened not only his eyes but also several doors to a career as a mathematician. He went on to finish a M.Sc. in Mathematics from UFPE - Brazil and a Ph.D, from the University of Texas at Austin.

Currently, Dr. Conceição is an associate professor at Gettysburg College. He lives in Gettysburg with his two sons and wife. When he's not teaching or thinking about all things number theoretic, he is playing guitar, soccer with friends, video games, board games, or biking/hiking with his kids.

Dr. Conceição's research interests lie in algebra and number theory in general and more specifically in arithmetic geometry and the theory of polynomials over finite fields. His research has focused on finding explicit points on curves defined over function fields, the interplay between the arithmetic of the ring of integers and that of the ring of polynomials over a field, the characterization and construction of special classes of polynomials over finite fields, and the construction of curves over finite fields with a large set of rational points.

As an undergraduate student in Brazil, Dr. Conceição had great mentors but no concrete opportunity to do research in mathematics. One of the reasons he joined a small liberal arts school was to provide to his students the research experiences that circumstances denied him. He has collaborated in mathematics research with thirteen undergraduate students which has resulted in manuscripts and presentations at conferences and Gettysburg's mathematics colloquia.

Dr. Conceição has given several outreach talks, refereed several papers, helped organize a couple of special sessions in number theory and is currently one of the organizers of the Mid-Atlantic Seminar On Numbers (MASON), an annual conference serving the community of number theorists in the mid-Atlantic region.

Dr. Ochoa enjoys teaching and has lectured basic courses in differential and integral calculus to undergraduate students majoring in physical science and engineering. His dual background allows him to introduce fundamental concepts in mathematics and quickly connect these ideas with applications into a diversity of fields.

"I see the Hispanic Heritage Month as an opportunity to celebrate and shine a bright light on the achievements and challenges of the Latinx and Hispanic communities in the US. Given the current political climate, it also plays a very important role in fighting stereotypes and disrupting some expedient political narratives. Since Lathisms started, I have enjoyed the opportunity of sharing in my classes the profile of Latinx/Hispanic mathematicians, some of which are my dear friends. I feel very honored and humbled to be featured this year."