

Latinxs and Hispanics in Mathematical Sciences



Angel Pineda

Angel Pineda was born in Honduras. Both of his parents are medical doctors who were the first in their family to go to college. His grandmothers were the driving force for his parents to get a college education. His mother was raised by a single mother who had a small grocery store. His father is the seventh of eleven children and his older siblings helped support him financially through medical school. This collaborate passion for education in his family shaped Angel's view of mathematics as a team effort.

"Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to remember that mathematics is a community effort where contributions are made by many people at many levels. It is important to recognize and encourage the mathematics being done by the Hispanic and Latinx members to make mathematics a more inclusive community."

Angel received a B.S. in chemical engineering from Lafayette College. He went on to get a Ph.D. in applied mathematics from the University of Arizona and do a postdoctoral fellowship in the Radiology Department of Stanford University. Medical imaging is an area that combines his love of mathematics and medicine. After his postdoc he became an assistant professor of mathematics at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF). Angel is now an associate professor and graduate director of mathematics at Manhattan College.

Angel's research is in medical inverse problems typically involving statistical detection and estimation theory. The combination of mathematical modeling, optimization, and statistics with a medical application is very interesting to him. Mathematics has much aesthetic and functional beauty. He is an applied mathematician because he likes to solve problems that have some of both.

As a student and faculty member, Angel has been fortunate to have wonderful mentors who have become his friends. He strives to be that type of mentor to his students and younger faculty. Through his involvement in mentoring student research he became a member of the MAA Subcommittee of Research by Undergraduates and received a grant from the Center for Undergraduate Research (CURM). He is a mentor for the Math Alliance and was the Principal Investigator of an NSF grant supporting underrepresented student preparation for graduate school.

Another major area of service for Angel is supporting mathematics in developing countries. Being from Honduras, he is aware that there is much talent around the world which is not developed because of lack of access to resources. Angel has been a volunteer lecturer in Cambodia for the International Mathematical Union (IMU), was the co-author of a report on the state of mathematics in Latin America from the IMU, served on the Commission for Developing Countries of the IMU and is currently the secretary for GRAID, a program providing research assistantships to students in the poorest countries.

Lathisms was founded in 2016 in order to showcase the contributions of Latinx and Hispanic mathematicians during Hispanic Heritage Month, which is celebrated in the United States from September 15 and October 15 every year. During this time, we feature/reveal a prominent Latinx/Hispanic mathematician daily. See all the featured mathematical scientists at LATHISMS.ORG.

Thanks to the American Mathematical Society for support of Lathisms.