

Latinxs and Hispanics in the Mathematical Sciences



Rei Sanchez-Arias

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Reinaldo (Rei) Sanchez-Arias earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Universidad del Valle in Cali, Colombia. In the spring of 2013, he obtained a Ph.D. degree in Computational Science from the University of Texas at El Paso, working on sparse representation methods for classification problems and dimensionality reduction. Dr. Sanchez-Arias then completed a postdoctoral researcher appointment for the Army High Performance Computing Research Center (AHPARC) working in reduced order models for underbody-blast simulations and data compression techniques. From 2014 to 2016, Dr. Sanchez-Arias was part of the Applied Mathematics Department at Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston, Massachusetts where he taught courses for Applied Mathematics and Engineering students. He then joined St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida, where he served as the Program Director for the MS in Big Data Analytics in the School of Science. Since Fall 2018, Dr. Sanchez-Arias is with the Department of Data Science and Business Analytics at Florida Polytechnic University in Lakeland, Florida. Dr. Sanchez-Arias was the recipient of Florida Poly's Excellence in Teaching Ablaze Award in 2020.

Dr. Sanchez-Arias' general areas of interest include data mining and machine learning, computational linear algebra and optimization, and data science education. He has been invited to speak at student chapter organizations, seminars, and colloquia on the power of mathematics in data science applications and the teaching and learning of data science.

Dr. Sanchez-Arias gives the following advice to students, "Always stay curious and try to identify the links between different areas of mathematics, science, engineering, and all other disciplines where skills can be applied to solve interesting problems. Understand and master the fundamentals and expand your network for a much broader impact of your work." He also tells them, "Being involved in interdisciplinary projects will allow you to learn from people in a variety of fields: you will practice how to effectively communicate with others, and can adopt techniques and other tools that can improve your work and open many doors." Finally, he tells students "invest in yourself and find ways to give back to your community. You can inspire many people to pursue their goals."

"Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to recognize, celebrate, and get inspired by the achievements and stories of those in my community. It is a time to celebrate our cultural richness and diversity. It is a chance to reflect on ways that we can contribute to positive change, so that all of those in our community continue to thrive."

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.

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