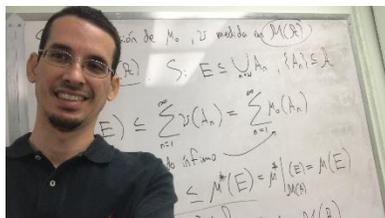


Latinxs and Hispanics in the Mathematical Sciences



Alejandro Vélez-Santiago

Associate Professor of Mathematics, University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez

Alejandro Vélez-Santiago was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and is the third son of a family of six siblings. His life story is one full of challenges, but also of hope and miracles. He was born with two major conditions: autism and chronic asthma. Alejandro liked math and music since he was a kid, and his parents put him in violin classes at the age of 10 years. From there, Alejandro excelled in music, particularly in violin performance, and began to play violin with the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra when he was in 11th grade in high school. During that period Alejandro also experienced a great miracle: when he was 16 years old the Lord healed him from both his autism, and his condition of chronic asthma. Since he was so advanced in violin performance, he first wanted to pursue his career as a violinist, but after following the advice of his parents, he also completed a bachelor's degree in Mathematics (2004) at the University of Puerto Rico – Río Piedras (UPRRP), and then completed his Ph.D. in Mathematics (2010) at the same institution. After two post-doctoral positions (2010-2011 at Iowa State University and 2013-2016 at the University of California Riverside), he was hired by the University of Puerto Rico – Mayagüez (UPRM), where he is currently an Associate Professor of Mathematics. Alejandro is very thankful to many who have influenced his life, especially to his parents and family for their love, sacrifice, and teachings.

Alejandro's research lies in the combinations of the mathematical fields of Analysis, Partial Differential Equations (PDEs), Measure Theory, Potential Theory, Operator Theory, and Fractal Geometry (among others). He has conducted undergraduate research with multiple undergraduate students and has mentored three graduate students who did their master's thesis under his mentorship. Alejandro loves to help his graduate students as much as possible with gaining quality research experiences in order to increase their opportunities of success in the future after graduation.

"I am humbly honored to be selected as part of this year's group of contributors of the Lathisms calendar. It is a privilege to be part of this community, and always remember the roots of our lives. I consider this month as a special occasion in which we can inspire and influence many individuals, especially Latinxs in our community to be successful, and to build an environment of respect, friendship, and integrity. Our testimony speaks louder than words."

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 and the Mathematical Association of America for support of Lathisms.