

BLACK MATH HISTORY

HIDDEN FIGURES REVEALED



CHRIS TIBBS OSU MATHEMATICS 2012

"There's so much more of the story to be written in science, mathematics, and computing. You can help write that story by trusting in your unique skillsets and the areas of focus where they really shine."

-Chris Tibbs -

Hometown: Vineland, New Jersey

Current Occupation: Mobile Applications Tech Lead for The Philadelphia Inquirer

Professional Interests: Software development, Civics

Hobbies: Filmmaking, Music

MY MATH STORY

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

Mathematics have always come easy to me. I used my natural aptitude to glide through most of my early studies in this field, but I didn't really feel engaged with the subject matter until I started taking upper level courses. When the coursework started involving more proof writing than rote calculation, I really started to fall in love with math. Ever since I learned to prove the Gaussian sum I have always been a huge fan of proof writing. It was fascinating to me that there were different views and approaches to proving the same theorems-- the task seemed to branch into a sort of philosophy.

How has your math degree influenced your life after graduation?

The coursework involved in obtaining my math degree really honed my natural mathematical skill. It developed a framework to think clearly and logically about closed space problems. This has paid off immensely in my career as a software creator and has also helped me pursue my creative passions, especially music. Through limited academic study and a lot of experimentation, I've found music to be a lot like mathematics-- but more open and serendipitous.

What personal or professional accomplishment(s) are you most proud of?

My upper level coursework in mathematics was the height of my academic career. It was the first time I had gotten the chance to pursue studies in which I had natural aptitude and a deep interest in the subject. Completing that degree with solid grades and being a leader in a lot of my classes was my greatest academic accomplishment.

My greatest professional accomplishment was working on the team that created the Google Home. It's difficult to explain how much coordination, work, and perseverance went into developing that hardware product over the course of about six months. Around the same time I also worked on Google Search features that helped voters participate in the U.S. Presidential Election of 2016. That was really fulfilling from a civic perspective.



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