

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 1ST-29TH

JOHN URSCHEL

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Urschel earned a B.S. and an M.A. from Pennsylvania State University. After completing his masters degree in 2013, he was selected in the 2014 NFL draft. He played as guard and center for the Baltimore Ravens from 2014 to 2017. After retiring from football, he returned to mathematics and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at MIT. His research interests are convex geometry, graph theory, machine learning, and numerical analysis. He wrote an autobiography titled *Mind and Matter: A Life in Math and Football*.

EDRAY HERBER GOINS

POMONA COLLEGE

Edray earned a B.S. in mathematics and physics from CalTech and a Ph.D. from Stanford University. Goins is interested in Selmer groups for elliptic curves using class groups of number fields, Belyi maps and Dessins d'Enfants, origami as branched covers of elliptic curves, and Galois groups, monodromy groups, and étale fundamental groups. Before choosing to work at Pomona College, Edray was a full professor at Purdue University (see article linked below). He spends most summers working to engage undergraduate students from underrepresented groups in research in the mathematical sciences; he runs an REU program at Pomona College.

You can read more about Edray's experiences here:



For a Black Mathematician,
What It's Like to Be the 'Only One'



Why I'm leaving a Research I
University for a Liberal Arts College

SYLVIA BOZEMAN

Sylvia Bozeman obtained her undergraduate degree at Alabama A&M University, while working on summer projects at NASA and Harvard University. She started her graduate studies at Vanderbilt University, where she obtained a Masters degree, and earned a Ph.D. at Emory University. Her research interests are functional analysis and image processing. In collaboration with Rhonda Hughes, Bozeman created a transition and mentoring program for women entering graduate school in the mathematical sciences called *Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE)*. Bozeman retired in 2013, after 39 years of service at Spelman College.

CANDICE RENEE PRICE

SMITH COLLEGE

Candice earned her undergraduate degree from California State University, her M.A. from San Francisco State University, and her Ph.D. from University of Iowa. Price's research is in mathematical modeling, knot theory, DNA topology, and applied mathematics. She currently is an assistant professor at Smith College, and has held positions at the University of San Diego, the Sam Houston State University, and the United States Military Academy West Point. Price is an advocate for greater representation of women and people of color in STEM and is a co-founder of *Mathematically Gifted and Black*. She participated in our AWM Speaker Series in Spring 2018.



mathematicallygiftedandblack.com is a website that features the
accomplishments of Black scholars in the mathematical sciences



SIAM honors African American
mathematicians

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 1ST-29TH



Using a pan-African lens, the Black Cultural Center (BCC) seeks to counteract persistent campus-wide and global anti-blackness. The BCC works to holistically enrich, educate, and advocate for students, faculty, and staff through Black centered programming, culturally affirming educational initiatives, and retention strategies.

This new center will enact this mission through intentional programmatic learning outcomes, envisioned to build a sense of belonging and community at the U, with the goal of increasing the recruitment and retention of Black students, faculty, and staff. Supporting academic and cultural activities, this center is designed to promote and explore Blackness, equity, justice, and other progressive social change initiatives on campus and within the larger African diasporic community. The broader public mission of the Center is marked by a commitment to community activism and collaboration.

GROUPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

- African Student Association (ASA)
- Black Student Union (BSU)
- Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA)
- Black Faculty & Staff Association (BFSA)
- Muslim Students Association (MSA)
- Black Alumni Community

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- Utah Black Chamber of Commerce
- NAACP Salt Lake Branch
- Madina Masjid of Salt Lake City
- Calvary Baptist Church

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

- African American Doctoral Studies Initiative
- Ambassadors Program
- Welcome Black
- Black Affair/Graduation Celebration
- Black Programming Series Committee
- K.I.N.G.S.
- Lecture Series
- Q.U.E.E.N.
- Writing Retreats and Bootcamps

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 1ST-29TH

MILESTONES IN MATHEMATICS:

1862 Yale becomes the first institution in the U.S.A. to award a Ph.D. in mathematics.

1886 Kelly Miller is the first African American to study graduate mathematics.

1925 Elbert Frank Cox becomes the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics.

1929 William Schieffelin Claytor becomes the first African American to publish mathematics research.

1943 Euphemia Lofton Hayes becomes the first African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics.

1947 Earliest record of a mathematics Ph.D. earned by an African, Ghanaian A. M. Taylor (Oxford University).

1954 David Blackwell becomes the first African American to hold a permanent position at a major university.

1956 First published mathematics research paper with two Black co-authors.

1956 Gloria Ford Gilmer is believed to be the first African American woman to publish mathematical research, co-authoring an article in Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society and another in Pacific Journal of Mathematics.

1965 David Blackwell is the first African American named to the National Academy of Sciences.

1969 17 African American mathematicians met in New Orleans, forming the National Association of Mathematicians to "promote excellence in the mathematical sciences and to promote the mathematical development of underrepresented American minorities".

1974 Alton Wallace becomes the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics supervised by an African American advisor.

1976 Howard University establishes the first Ph.D. program in mathematics at a historically Black university.

1979 David Blackwell wins the von Neumann Theory Prize.

1997 Kate Okikiolu becomes the first Black person to win the Sloan Research Fellowship.

2006 Joe Anderson, Carla Cotwright, Brian Williams, and Adrian Wilson graduate with doctorates in mathematics from The University of Mississippi, becoming the first four African American students to do so at a single commencement in any American college or university.

2015 President Barack Obama presented Katherine Johnson the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She was cited as a pioneering example of African American women in STEM.