Latinxs and Hispanics in Mathematical Sciences

Photo courtesy of Dr. Sergio López-Permouth

"Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of Latin people in the United States and their contributions to all aspects of life. As a Guatemalan working in the United States, I am proud to represent my country in the area of mathematics. Anything I achieve is rooted in my formative years at home and in the professional opportunities that I have received as a resident of the United States. I am extremely proud to celebrate and thank both, every step of the way."

Dr. Sergio Roberto López-Permouth

John F. and Rita L. Wilson Professor of Mathematics
Ohio University

Sergio López-Permouth was born and raised in Guatemala City, Guatemala, where he studied mathematics at Universidad del Valle de Guatemala. He then moved to the United States and completed graduate degrees from Ohio University and North Carolina State University. While living in the United States, Sergio has remained involved with mathematics in Latin America, mentoring undergraduate theses in Guatemala and El Salvador, organizing special sessions for joint meetings of AMS and SMM and participating in conferences in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, and Uruguay.

After completing his doctorate in 1985, Sergio has been with the faculty of Ohio University, where he has served terms as chair of the department of mathematics and of the university faculty senate. He is currently the John F. and Rita L. Wilson Professor of Mathematics and the director of the Ohio University Center of Ring Theory and its Applications (OUCRA). At Ohio University, Sergio has advised more than 25 doctoral students, and, with OUCRA, he has mentored many postdoctoral visitors from all over the world.

Sergio is the author of about 100 papers and has edited several research volumes. He has been an executive editor for Journal of Algebra and its Applications and a member of the editorial board of several other journals.

Sergio has enjoyed a nice partnership with Ohio State University, where they organize a biweekly ring theory seminar that attracts mathematicians from throughout Ohio. With OSU, Sergio handled the algebra portion of SAMMS, a collaborative program of OSU and Universidad de Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, which offered a taste of graduate level mathematics to students from underrepresented areas. One of Sergio's proudest accomplishments was to publish a research paper in the Pi Mu Epsilon journal of mathematics, a venue dedicated to undergraduate research, which resulted from collaborating with SAMMS participants.

Sergio's research displays an eclectic taste as he tackles a variety of algebraic structures. He is just as likely to be considering foundational questions about modules over non-commutative rings, as he is to be pondering questions about what happens when you let binary operations to create new ones, or to be trying to expand structures from infinite sums to infinite products via summability notions. In the middle of it all, he also frequently finds the time to consider applications in the realm of information and coding theory.