

# Math 5099 – Colloquium

## Fall 2025

Wednesday August 27<sup>th</sup>.

We broke off into three groups to discuss two papers each about a prominent mathematician and how they came into the subject. The group that I was assigned spent the time relating to the experiences in the papers realizing that we all come very different backgrounds.

- Fernanda is a Brazilian engineer who has come to FIT to studying OR because her career simply wasn't challenging enough.
- Gianna is a *very young* grad student (only 20) and oldest of 5 siblings who wants to study math for its own sake, simply because she can. Besides, getting away from the burdens of a large family and having some independence is appealing to her.
- Preston is an engineer turned mathematician because "I like the depths that you can go into Mathematics. There will always be another problem to solve, another subject to delve into. It will never be fulfilling."
- Bilal was an Accountant but always saw himself as a scientist. It was Mathematics that prove to be the most interesting to study, though, and is happy to leave the world of accounting for the complex world of higher mathematics.

Another take away from this session was when Dr. Du said "you have to follow your Heart." Indeed, you do.