

April Maria Ortiz *

Professor of Mathematics

Sul Ross State University · Rio Grande College
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Education

PhD in Mathematics

2009

University of Texas at Austin

Dissertation: "Differential Equivariant K-Theory"

Committee: Dan Freed (advisor), David Ben-Zvi, Jacques Distler, Lorenzo Sadun,
Karen Uhlenbeck

Funded by Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship for Minorities and Dean's Excellence Fellowship

BS in Mathematics

2002

University of North Texas

Funded by Regents' Scholarship and Multicultural Scholarship

Professional Experience

Professor of Mathematics

2009 – present

Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College

- Responsible, as sole full-time mathematics faculty over three geographically separated campuses in Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde, for teaching a semester courseload ranging from four to six different junior-, senior-, and graduate-level courses. Courses are taught across multiple campuses in a variety of formats, including in-classroom distance learning, synchronous web conference, asynchronous online, traditional face-to-face, and hybrid formats, with weekly visits to each campus.
- Responsible for mathematics curriculum at three campuses, including planning course rotations, progressively aligning the curriculum and course inventory with the main campus in Alpine, and writing career pathways in conjunction with Southwest Texas Junior College, from which most RGC students transfer.
- Responsible for advising all math majors at three campuses, which includes at least one appointment with each math major each semester, and for maintaining weekly in-person and virtual office hours.
- Responsible for planning and implementing program assessments for the bachelor's degree in mathematics in compliance with SACSCOC requirements.
- Developed and piloted seven graduate courses with the support of a Title V PPOHA (Providing Post-Baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans) grant.
- Developed and piloted several innovated courses that now form part of the regular

* This is my legal name, but, for a short period of time, various agencies and institutions may still list me under my former name, which is Michael Luis Ortiz.

rotation.

Adjunct Instructor of Physics **2021 – present**
Southwest Texas Junior College

- Responsible for teaching college physics and university physics.

University Service

**Chair, Department of Computer Science,
Mathematics, and Physical Sciences** **2022 – 2023**
Sul Ross State University, Alpine Campus

- On an interim basis, responsible for creating course schedules, revising curriculum, hiring faculty, and overseeing purchases and travel reimbursements.

President, Faculty Senate **2014 – 16, 2018 – 21, 2022 – 23 (six terms)**
Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College

- Responsible for working with faculty and university administration on matters of shared governance, obtaining university committee nominations and presenting them to the president's office, serving on special president's committees, and representing the faculty at biannual meetings at the Texas State University System office in Austin.

Secretary, TSUS Council of Faculty Senates **2019 – 21 (one term)**
Texas State University System

- Responsible for attending biannual meetings of the TSUS Council of Faculty Senates with the system chancellor, vice chancellors, and other personnel at the system office in Austin and taking and distributing minutes.

Secretary-Treasurer, Faculty Senate **2011 – 2013 (two terms)**
Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College

- Responsible for taking minutes, maintaining web pages and document archives, and overseeing the senate budget.

Member, Academic Planning Committee **2021**
Sul Ross State University

- Responsible, as faculty senate president, with a team of deans, executive cabinet members, and faculty representatives, for identifying academic programs to consolidate or shutter in the face of declining university enrollment.

Member, Second Century Committee **2020 – 21**
Sul Ross State University

- Responsible, as faculty senate president, with a team of deans and executive cabinet members, for identifying areas of potential growth for the next century of the university's existence.

Chair, President's Select Committee for Efficiencies and Innovations **2018**
Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College

- Responsible for planning and convening meetings, obtaining data, interviewing

university administrators, and compiling a detailed final report presented to the president's office.

QEP Navigator **2018 – present**

Sul Ross State University

- Responsible for teaching courses and assessing products for the university Quality Enhancement Plan concerning communication skills, in compliance with SACSCOC requirements.

Member, QEP Committee **2015 – 16**

Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College

- Responsible for promoting the aims of the RGC Quality Enhancement Plan concerning communication skills, in compliance with SACSCOC requirements.

Program Coordinator, BS Program in Mathematics **2011 – present**

Sul Ross State University

- Responsible for assessing and making recommendations for the Bachelor of Science Program in Mathematics at SRSU RGC (2011 – 18) and SRSU (2018 – 21) in compliance with SACSCOC requirements.

Mentor, Noyce Scholars Program **2021 – present**

Sul Ross State University

- Responsible for mentoring two students supported by the National Science Foundation Noyce Scholars Program at SRSU.

Curriculum Developer and Pilot Instructor, Title V PPOHA Grant **2015 – 19**

Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College

- Responsible for developing and piloting mathematics curriculum for a Master's of Education in College Teaching program supported by a Title V PPOHA grant. Coursework targets secondary teachers with the intent of extending their knowledge of topics in the state curriculum and preparing them to teach dual-credit courses.

Sponsor, Pi Sigma Math Club **2009 – present**

Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College

- Responsible for promoting and advising student math club and facilitating its activities, which have included day trips to area parks and museums as well as overnight trips to the Texas Section Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America and the McDonald Observatory in west Texas.

Web Editor, Department of Natural and Behavioral Sciences **2011 – 19**

Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College

- Responsible for maintaining web pages for the Department of Natural and Behavioral Sciences and the RGC biology, criminal justice, mathematics, and psychology programs.

Member, Various Permanent Committees and Councils **2011 – present**

Sul Ross State University

- Service in various capacities on the University Curriculum Committee (2021 – present), the Campus Master Plan Committee (2020 – present), the Diversity,

Equity, and Inclusion Committee (2020 – present), the Staff Awards, Nominations, and Selection Committee (2020 – 21), the Budget Advisory Council (2019 – 21), the Curriculum Council (2014 – 16, 2020 – 21), the Academic Advisory Committee (2018 – 21), the Financial Aid Appeals Committee (2017 – 19), the Library Advisory Council (2016 – 18), the Instructional Technology Committee (2014 – 15), the Web Services Advisory Committee (2012 – 14), and the Student Service Fee Advisory Committee (2011 – 12).

Member, Various Search Committees **2016 – 20**

Sul Ross State University

- Service on search committees for Director of Student Services (2023), Assistant Professor of Computer Science (2023), Assistant Professor of Psychology (2020), Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice (2020), OIT Director (2019), Assistant Professor of English (2017), and Dean of Rio Grande College (2016).

Honors and Awards

La Vida Lobo Award for Outstanding Community Service **August 2023**

Sul Ross State University

Meritorious Ranking **2009 – present**

Sul Ross State University

Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship for Minorities **2002 – 05**

National Academy of Sciences

Dean's Excellence Fellowship **2002 – 03**

University of Texas at Austin College of Natural Sciences

Outstanding Math Major of the Year **2002**

University of North Texas

Regents' Scholarship **1997 – 2001**

University of North Texas

Multicultural Scholarship **1997 – 2001**

University of North Texas

Selected Presentations

"On-Ramp to the Fourth Dimension" **April 1, 2022**

Texas Section Conference of the Mathematical Association of America
University of North Texas

"The Old Wolf, Again: Latinx Faculty Negotiations, Recruitment, Retention, and Racism in the Academy" **October 20, 2020**

National Virtual Conference of the National Center for the Study of Collective Bargaining in Higher Education and the Professions

With José Luis Morín (Chair, Department of Latin American and Latinx Studies, John Jay College of Criminal Justice), José Cintrón (College of Education, CSU Sacramento, California Faculty

Association), and Theresa Montano (California State University, Northridge)

- "Math and Culture"** **March 29, 2019**
Texas Section Conference of the Mathematical Association of America
Tarleton State University
- "Four-Dimensional Show-and-Tell"** **April 6, 2018**
Texas Section Conference of the Mathematical Association of America
El Centro College
- "The Ancient and Modern Art of Conic Sections"** **July 10 and 11, 2017**
Conference for the Advancement of Mathematics Teaching
Fort Worth, Texas
With Patricia Nicosia (Sul Ross State University)
- "Beauty Both Ancient and New: Geometry beyond 'Geometry'"** **June 29, 2016**
Conference for the Advancement of Mathematics Teaching
San Antonio, Texas
With Patricia Nicosia (Sul Ross State University)
- "Humanizing Geometry"** **April 1, 2016**
Texas Section Conference of the Mathematical Association of America
Stephen F. Austin State University
- "Humanistic Mathematics in the Hinterlands"** **April 4, 2014**
Texas Section Conference of the Mathematical Association of America
Texas A&M International University

Selected Essays and Articles

- "This is What It's Like to Come Out as Trans in Small-Town Texas"** **April 2023**
Huffington Post
- "I Am a Trans Texan"** **March 2023**
Texas Observer
- "Uvalde Revolts"** **October 2022**
Texas Monthly
- "The Sacred Heart of Uvalde"** **September 2022**
Texas Observer
- "My Uvalde"** **June 2022**
Texas Monthly
- "Small Bright Beads"** (as Gabriel Carlos Lopez) **Spring 2023**
RiverSedge, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- "Of Theodolites and Breakfast Tacos"** (as Gabriel Carlos Lopez) **April 2022**
Concho River Review, Angelo State University

- "Border College: The Past, Its Present, Our Future"** (as Michael Ortiz) **2018**
Latinx Talk
- "Reflections on Autism, Ethnicity, and Equity"** (as Michael Ortiz) **2018**
inclusion/exclusion (a blog of the American Mathematical Society)
- Math Column** **2018 – 22**
Uvalde Leader News
Nontechnical monthly math column with an emphasis on humanism, multiculturalism, ethnomathematics, current events, and women and people of color in STEM.

Selected Community Service and Outreach

- Organizer and Facilitator, Uvalde Rainbow Alliance** **2023**
El Progreso Memorial Library, Uvalde
- Established a group for support and mutual aid open to adult members of the LGBTQ+ community, allies, and healthcare workers.
- Organizer and Presenter, Uvalde 4-H STEM Program** **2022 – 23**
Texas A&M University AgriLife Center Uvalde
- With biologists Dr. Madhumita Joshi and Dr. Vijay Joshi, organized a biweekly program for area students aged 9 – 17, in which various local individuals in STEM careers take turns making presentations and involving students in hands-on activities; ran several math circles about graph theory, conic sections, and other topics.
- Organizer, Middle Rio Grande Higher Education Summit** **September 22, 2019**
Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments, Eagle Pass, Texas
- Collected data, prepared handouts, and assembled a panel including Al Kauffman (attorney for MALDEF during LULAC v. Richards), Rodolfo Rosales (former UTSA faculty member), and Velma Vela Ybarra (LULAC national education cochair) for a roundtable summit attended by over sixty county judges, city mayors, school superintendents, university faculty, and other community members.
- Organizer and Sponsor, LULAC Council 22407** **2019 – present**
Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde, Texas
- Helped a group of students establish a local council of the League of United Latin American Citizens, currently in transition to an official university organization; council members have addressed local city councils, met with elected officials, and engaged in other public awareness activities.
- Math Workshop Leader, STEMward Bound Program** **July 28, 2021**
Southwest Texas Junior College
- Prepared and conducted a workshop for prospective STEM majors from underrepresented groups, held at Southwest Texas Junior College, which is the institutional partner of Rio Grande College.

Guest Speaker, Various Venues

Uvalde, Texas

- Presentations and activities on a variety of mathematical topics directed at audiences of children and adults through community organizations and institutions, e.g., the Rotary Club of Uvalde, El Progreso Memorial Library, and local schools.

Art / Math Exhibits, Various Venues

2014 – present

Alpine, Del Rio, and Uvalde, Texas

- Multiple one-woman and shared exhibits showcasing original watercolors, oil paintings, digital collages, sculptures, and other artifacts on the spectrum from fine art to mathematics, at venues including the Francois Fine Art Gallery in Alpine, the Casa de la Cultura in Del Rio, and Art Lab Contemporary Art Space in Uvalde.