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History of Math

7 December 2021

Fredric T. Howard

[57, 380, 1966, 2011, 3, 3, 0]

No Wikipedia

Fredric T. Howard, thankfully, has dedicated his studies in mathematics to more familiar concepts. With many publications and a large number of citations, his works on the applications of Fibonacci Numbers is well-received in the mathematics community. He is also known for his love of baseball.

Howard was born in 1939 and is currently 82. Growing up in Texas, he never suspected he would be a mathematician. For his undergraduate studies, he went to Vanderbilt intending to major in English or history, but after receiving his first 100% on his math final during his freshman year, he pivoted. Since then, he received both his Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts from Vanderbilt in mathematics. In 1966, Howard also got his Ph.D. in mathematics from Duke University, while beginning his teaching career at Wake Forest University in North Carolina.

Howard was a research professor for mathematics at Wake Forest University from 1966 to 2009. Despite being retired, he is a highly respected professor who has inspired many other mathematicians. Both in and out of the classroom, he is described to be soft-spoken, witty, dedicated, and inspirational. In Howard's retirement commencement, many mathematicians have declared they would have never been where they are today without Fred Howard.

Although research is essential, mathematicians would not be where they are without a source of inspiration. Good teaching is what motivates the next generation of mathematicians and keeps this field alive; it piques curiosity and the craving to learn. Without this, many of the greatest mathematicians (like Srinivasa Ramanujan) would have never made the contributions they have made.