Michael with Dr. Sandy Magnus, former astronaut and crewmember of the final Space Shuttle Mission STS-135, during a lecture at Howard Hughes College of Engineering

Michael as the Area D2 Governor awarding a contestant during a Toastmasters International Area Contest

Michael holds a degree in Finance, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA)

**MICHAEL J. RAMIREZ**

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS CLASS OF ’16
MATHMATICS B.S. CANDIDATE & BRIDGE TEAM LEADER FOR SUMMER ’15

*What’s the best piece of advice you’ve ever been given?*
READ EVERYDAY! Our minds are set up not only to learn from our own experiences but also from the experiences of others. (It’s why we don’t need to rediscover fire with every new generation.)

*What does success look like to you?*
To me, success means leaving your house in better shape than when you first entered it.

*How would your best friend describe you?*
Most likely: a nerd.

*What advice do you have for anyone struggling with math?*
Math is like working out. People work out every day, struggling at times and pushing through pain, with no intention of becoming an Olympic athlete. WHY? They do it because there are clear benefits to exercising and not giving up. It’s the same with math. Even if you’re not looking to be a mathematician, math provides a mental work out that keeps your mind healthy. You will struggle. Everyone struggles. But I guarantee you; if you embrace struggle and push through in math, you will never look at the world the same way again.

*Tell us your favorite math joke.*
A guy walks into a job interview and hands over his CV.
The interviewer says: “I see here you’re good at quick math. What’s 19 times 17?”
Guy says: “36.”
Interviewer: “That’s not even close.”
Guy: “But it was quick.”

#MathInTheRealWorld

“MY CLASSROOM LAST YEAR HAD A LOT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE MAJORS; AND I REMEMBER ONE STUDENT BEING INTERESTED IN WORKING AS A CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATOR (CSI)...”

So for a class presentation on how math can be applied to the real world, she asked for help understanding blood spatter analysis. I’ve never worked as a CSI. She begins showing me research she’s done, finding examples of calculations using height and distance of spatter; and I begin making connections using trig and constant acceleration formulas to explain how the calculations estimate spatter origin... It’s moments like these, where connections are made between math and something seemingly unrelated, that are truly exciting. I mean, who would have thought a tool we can use to catch bad guys was SOHCAHTOA?”

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