

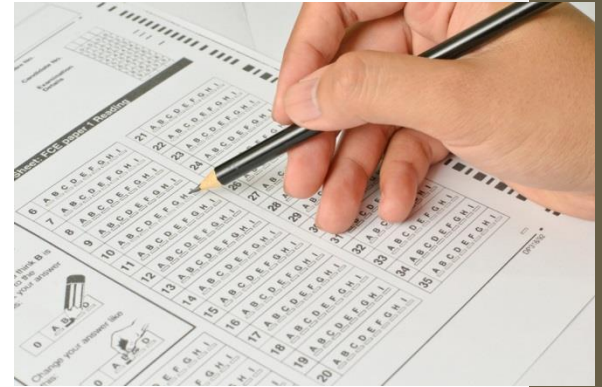
Milestone:
Anything is
Possible!



Dr. Ryan Kasha, Ph.D.
Professor of Mathematics
Valencia College, West Campus

Rough Beginnings

- Eye Disability (Right Eye)
- Poor hand/eye coordination
- Did not talk until age 5
- IQ pegged at 43
- Classified as mentally retarded with several learning disabilities in language development, reading, reading comprehension, and speech
- Went to Headstart Preschool



Preschool Newspaper Clipping



Staff photo by NICHOLAS VON STA

Ryan Kasha beams at the Preschool Developmental Training Center's graduation ceremony.

I was 5 years
old and graduated
from Headstart
Preschool
Program

Future Prediction

- Professionals stated that I had a bleak future.
- Would be lucky to get a G.E.D. and would have a career flipping burgers.



Future Career Choices



**THINK
OUTSIDE
THE BUN.®**

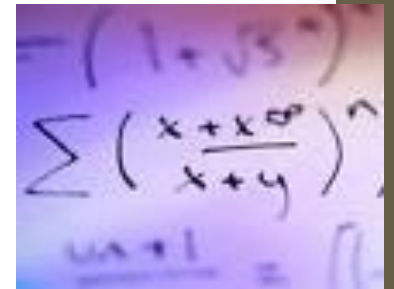


Schooling

- Went to special elementary school until 3rd grade
- Was not mainstreamed until 3rd grade
- Repeated Kindergarten twice and did similar work for following years until I was mainstreamed.
- Was behind my peers in 3rd grade
- Was pulled out for extra help with learning disabilities.

Schooling Accomplishments

- Made mostly A and B's in 4th and 5th grade with first 100% on math exam.
- Worked very hard in middle school; took 3 times longer to complete work.
- Was made fun of and had social challenges in middle school
- Made straight A's in 8th grade
- Great feeling of accomplishment
- Earned 2nd place in county algebra contest



A small, blurry image of a handwritten mathematical formula on a piece of paper. The formula appears to be a summation: $\sum \left(\frac{x+x^2}{x+y} \right)^n$. Above it, there is a term $-(1+\sqrt{5})^n$. Below the summation, there is another line of text that is partially obscured but seems to include $\frac{1}{x+y} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$.

High School Years



- Major turn-around during high school years
- Continued with “A” fever pattern
- Participated in extracurricular clubs and activities including honor societies
- Examples include after school tutoring, Kids In Distress, Latin club, Spanish Honor Society, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society), Civil Air Patrol



High School Years Continued



- Graduated from International Studies Magnet Program High School in 3 years
- Wanted to graduate with best GPA I can earn for myself
- Was hoping to graduate in top 10% of my class
- Learned that I would be salutatorian while another student would probably be valedictorian - - our GPAs were very close!

Became
Valedictorian



College Years - - FAU

- Earned Full Scholarship to FAU (Florida Atlantic University) in Boca Raton, FL
- Earned **Bachelor of Science** degree in Mathematics (**magna cum laude**).
- Minor in Statistics (Certificate)
- **Master of Science** in Teaching Mathematics
- **Master of Education** in Educational Psychology
- **Education Specialist** degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a specialty in mathematics.



College Years Continued

- Gained a variety of teaching experiences
- Taught elementary, middle, and high school
- Was a mentor and volunteered at outreach community center
- Was inducted in Phi Eta Sigma, Phi Kappa Phi, and Golden Key Honor Society

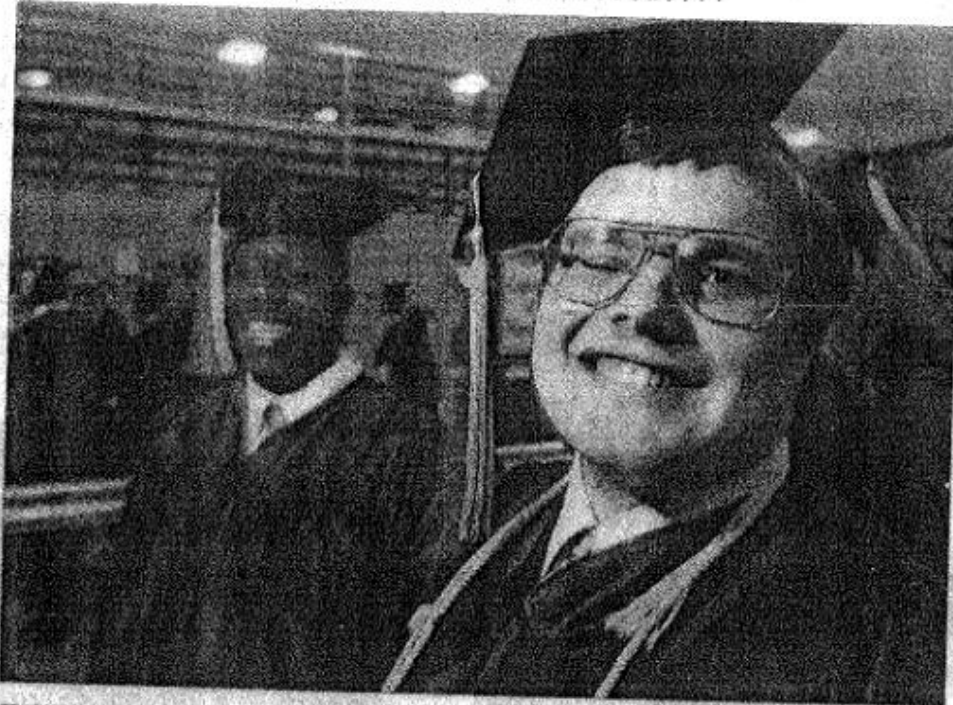


Newspaper clipping

Local

SATURDAY • AUGUST 12, 2000 • MS

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY



GRADUATION DAY: Ryan Kasha waits to receive the diploma for his bachelor of science degree, with high honors, from Florida Atlantic University on Friday. Behind him is fellow student Antonio Osborne. Staff photo/Nicholas K. Van Rader

Unexpected bright star

Written off early as ... other type of superstar.

This article was published when I graduated college with my Bachelor's degree.

More College Years - - UCF

- Further education at University of Central Florida (Orlando, FL)
- **Master of Science degree** in Modeling & Simulation from Institute of Simulation & Training (IST - UCF)
- Certificate in Instructional Design for Modeling & Simulation (IST - UCF)
- **Master of Science degree** in Industrial Engineering
- **Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.)** in Modeling and Simulation on **December 18, 2015!**



My Dissertation Defense:

An Exploratory Comparison of a Traditional and Adaptive Instructional Approach For College Algebra

by:

Ryan H. Kasha

Department of Modeling & Simulation

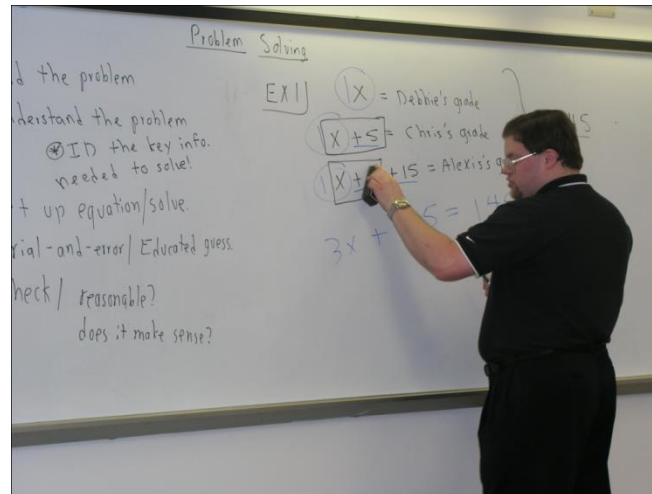
College of Graduate Studies

University of Central Florida

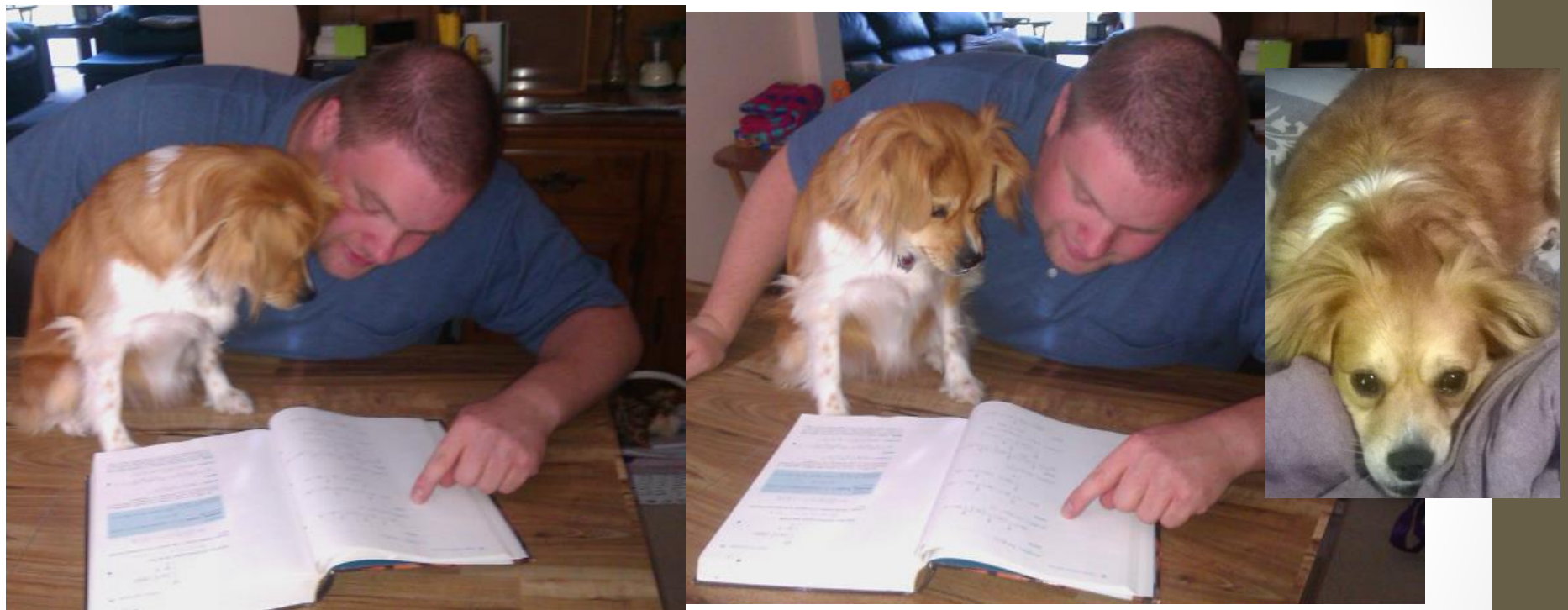


Teaching Career Background

- Taught secondary mathematics (high school)
- Taught at Broward Community College for several years
- Been teaching at Valencia full-time since 2004!



Secret: How Professor Kasha really learns math!!!



Volunteer Work



Sporting Experiences



Football



Basketball



Baseball

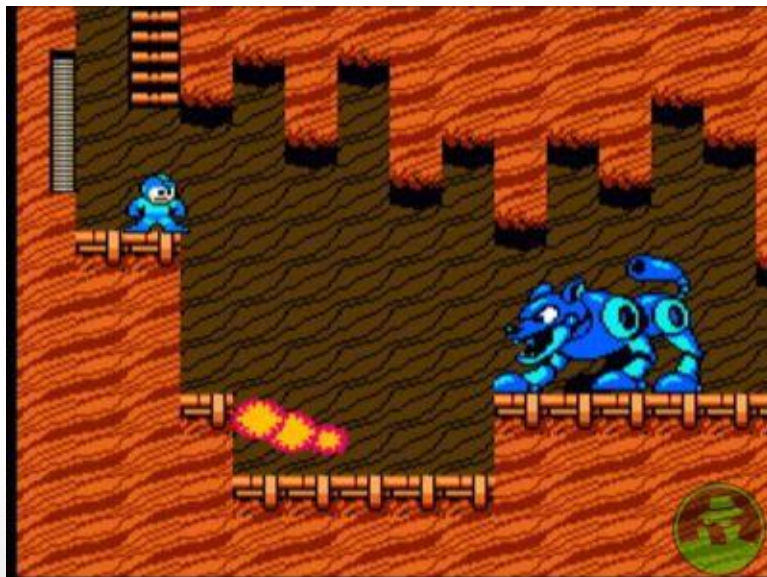


Swimming



Pool

Favorite Video Games



Favorite Foods:



Godiva chocolate truffles! 😊



And
M & M's!



Favorite Food Continued...



Philosophies for Success:

- If you think you can, you can! If you think you can't, you can't. Either way, you are right!
- The journey of 1,000 miles begin with a single step. Have big goals, but work at your goals step-by-step.
- Patience, time, and perseverance will accomplish all worthwhile goals.
- If you love your work, you will never work one day in your life!

Some Personal Slogans to live by...

- People who judge you don't matter, people who matter won't judge you.
- If you put up 23 pieces of paper on a wall, 100 pieces of paper of wall, etc., something is bound to stick to the wall.
- When you get frustrated, it is okay to take breaks; just don't ever give up!

Teaching Philosophy & Belief:

EQUALITY VERSUS EQUITY



In the first image, it is assumed that everyone will benefit from the same supports. They are being treated equally.



In the second image, individuals are given different supports to make it possible for them to have equal access to the game. They are being treated equitably.



In the third image, all three can see the game without any supports or accommodations because the cause of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.

Me and My Wife:



Me and My Dogs:



THE END

