



UNITED STATES

## MOHAMED AMINE KHAMSI

# This exemplary record, an international success

This Marrakchi, passed by Polytechnic, moved with his wife and children in Texas, where he taught mathematics at the University of El Paso. From there, he regularly collaborates with Morocco. **By Jonathan Ardines**

**S** Born in Marrakech in 1959, Amine Khamsi has spent his entire schooling in Casablanca until his tray, mathematics option. Valedictorian, he was accepted in France in Tours for integrated GREP a preparation sup math. But it never gets:

*"I had a friend who had not been accepted there, so I decided to enroll in Limoges with him."*

### France, United State, Saudi Arabia

Major coupon surcharges math, it integrates math spe-Grand to Louisle then continues with Polytechnique, a Master and PhD ...

Again Major coupon Mohamed Amine be- néficie the French system which reserves a place in the Louis-le-Grand high school students to the best of France. *"I then followed my spec math there, and then I joined Polytechnic before joining the University of Paris 6 (Jussieu) for my PhD."* A rather unusual route: *"In general, after Polytechnic, students enroll in other schools."*

In college, the Moroccan landed his Postgraduate Diploma (DEA) and PhD. During this pe-

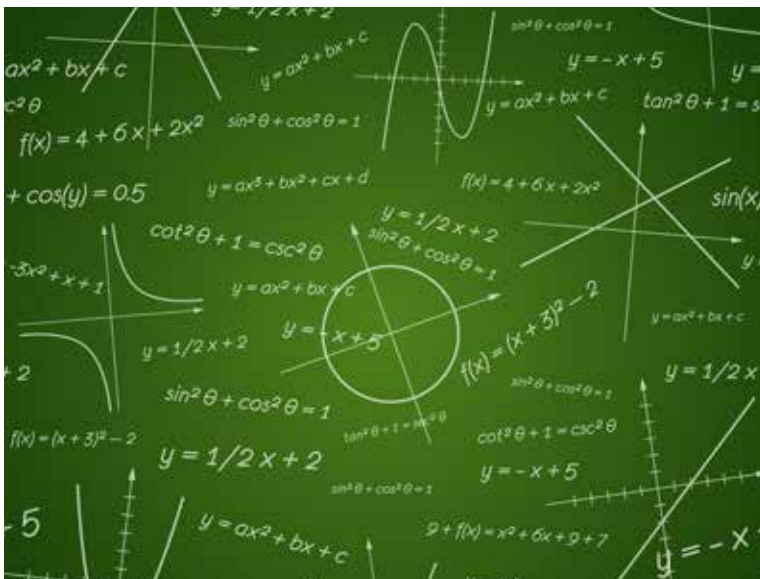
period, he met his future wife, a Colombian who became the mother of his children. *"In order for everyone to be fair distance from his country, we decided to settle in the US"* says he. After passing through Los Angeles, he gets a pro- fessor permanent position at the University of El Paso, Texas. All but one chance. *"We chose a place where there was a Latin dominant culture, on the border with Mexico to facilitate the transition for our children, who also lived for a time in Colombia with their mother."*

Mohamed Amine teaches, while the re- seek. In 2008, in Saudi Arabia, he discovered the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Mines, who offers him a research position. *"Now I'm going back and forth between Texas and Saudi Arabia, OSU I spend about one month a year, which allows me to be more active in my research."*

### Conferences UK

He regularly returns to Morocco to attend or organize conferences. *"There are three years old, I have a MON side to mathematicians living abroad. A second of its kind was held last November."* The aim is to help young Moroccan students during their course. With just form groups in different universities of the country, Rabat, Casablanca and Marrakech. *"Many work like me on the fixed point and I lead them."*

Desiring to bring students in Saudi Saou- said Mohamed Amine Khamsi faces several obstacles. *"The problem is that young Moroccans speak little English and it complicates the search for financing. They come to read, to write, but in oral communication, this is not the predominant language. Even if they have a written presentation in English, they will do it in French. Moreover, many scientists aime- friends raient attend these conferences in Morocco, but they tell me that it's too complicated for them, since they do not speak French."*





LA FRANCE

## KHALID KOUFANY

# "To promote mathematical research in Morocco"

This is Casablanca professor at the University of Lorraine and member of its prestigious Scientific Council. If he lives in Nancy, but the man keeps one foot in Morocco, where he is engaged in the professional and associative level. **Interview by Jonathan Ardines**

### Your pocket thesis, where did you go?

I defended my thesis in 1993, I did my doctoral post in Denmark. In climate, it was even harder! But it was very rewarding professionally. Then I applied to Nancy and I was hired as a teacher-researcher. I do research about geometry and algebra.

### Have you kept a strong link with Morocco?

Yes, I go back several times a year. I am asked very often, I also supervises Moroccan students. I organized several international conferences with leading experts in the domain of harmonic analysis. Among our projects, we are currently setting up a network mathematically cians from abroad to promote mathematical research in Morocco and, especially, to improve training and joint supervision of students.

### You also campaigned for over ten years in the association Lorraine Khamsa Solidaire here and elsewhere, working to a mix of cultures and friendship between civil societies ...

Yes, I was treasurer, vice president and then president ten years. We were leading such actions in Morocco in the field of education in rural areas, including the project "School for All". Each year, they chose a school in a village with few ways to help its renovation. sanitation were built there, a library and a media room, it was conducting connections in drinking water ... I stopped for lack of time, I leave room for the young now.

## INTERVIEW

### Tell us about your studies ...

I was born in Casablanca. I grew up in the Al-Fida neighborhood in a very modest family. I went to school there, until my mathematical sciences in 1985. tray means Mistake to integrate preparatory classes for French school, I enrolled in a mathematics degree at the Faculty Hassan -II Casa. I got my Masters in 1989 by finishing major of my promotion. a good result that made me beneficiary a lean purse. I then went to France, at the University of Lorraine, Nancy 1, to continue my studies.

### Acclimatization was not too complicated?

Very difficult. It was cold, the Moroccan scholarship allowed me just to have enough to pay my rent and support myself. In December, I returned to Morocco for three months, I was homesick. Fortunately, the crisis was short-lived. My father died, I could not be a far-of water for my mother, who had not the means to pay my studies. At that time, banks marocaines launched into student loans, I contracted one that allowed me to return to Nancy and to finish my studies.

"We go up a network of mathematicians

abroad (...) improve training and the joint supervision of students "