

CHILDHOOD

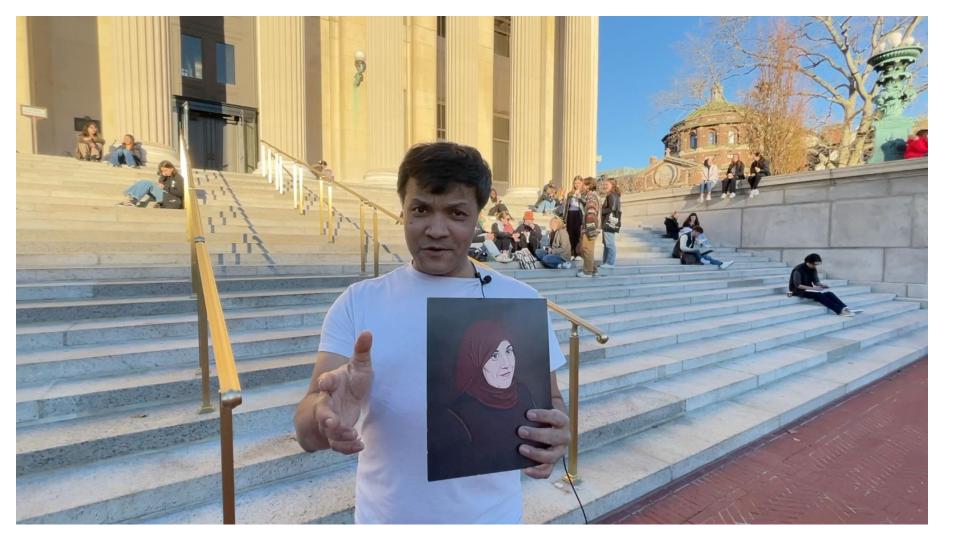
Tahani Amer was born in 1965 in Cairo, Egypt. Her father, Reffat Ayoub, who was

an engineer, worked at the Nile River water system, inspired Tahani to pursue

activities that were otherwise intended only for boys in Egyptian culture, such as

riding bikes, fixing cars, and making paper astrolabes. Tahani attended Al Salam

High School for Girls in Cairo and she was famous for her talent in mathematics.



MATHEMATICAL MIND

As a high school student she loved watching her father fix his car engine and

young Tahani imagined doing the same thing. She used to calculate the

cylinder and chamber volume as well as depth of the piston in the cylinder.

Her fascination with engineering and mathematics in her father's garage came

to an end after her marriage when she was 17 years old.



A IN CALCULUS CHANGED EVERYTHING!

She eventually moved to USA in 1983 with her husband and two children. At

first she hesitated to start college because she could not speak English.

However, she found the courage to give it a try at Old Dominion University,

Virginia, where she live with her husband, Muhammad Tahani. She received

an A in Calculus and gained a lot of respect which convinced her that

mathematics is much more prestigious than anything else.



EDUCATION

After her BS in Mechanical Engineering, she received a Master's in Aerospace Engineering and a Ph.D. in Engineering from Old Dominion University. She then received a Black Belt Six Sigma Certificate from Villanova University, after which she enrolled in the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton Executive Education Program. She subsequently enrolled in Harvard University's Kennedy

School Senior Executive Business Program.



NASA

As a Program Executive at NASA, Tahani manages the development of spacecraft systems. Her missions include the Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT), Geostationary Carbon Cycle Observatory (GeoCarb), and CLARREO Pathfinder (CPF) missions. Tahani reflects that her favorite moment in her career includes participating in NASA's public earth day events and communicating the importance of Earth science research with the public.