## Teaching Philosophy Raluca Felea

I will always remember the joy I felt first time I started teaching. I was very excited to be there for my students, to help them as my teachers helped me to enter into a new world: the fascinating world of mathematics.

My first goal is to make my students feel comfortable about asking questions. Involving them in open discussions about the subject increases their possibility of understanding the new concepts and notions. I do my best to capture the students' attention and interest and I try to make them share my enthusiasm about the course. I have noticed that the interaction between the teacher and the students is a key point in a successful lecture.

My second object is to teach my students the art of solving problems. In order to improve their skills. I always introduce the new methods step by step and use examples to illustrate their applications. With patience, I lead them toward the solutions by breaking long problems into pieces and by giving hints about the paths they should follow. I also encourage them to come up with new ideas and new approaches.

My next concern is to teach the students how to think logically, how to make connections between the concrete and the abstract and how to go inside and beyond the proofs. I believe that mathematics opens the students' mind, gives them the tools to analyze problems and eases their way toward great discoveries.

I think that a good teacher is first of all a well prepared teacher. An excellent mastering of the subject enables a better exposition of the material and the possibility of using appropriate explanations for students with different levels of learning. I like to present topics using the rule of three: geometrically, numerically and algebraically.

This year I am fortunate to be part of the Faculty learning community at RIT. I learned a lot from the group discussions we had. I will continue to do my best to improve in the future because I really think that teaching is a distinguished profession.