

MATH EM@TICS

“All the ν 's fit to print”

Department of Mathematics | Ithaca College

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*This issue is dedicated to our graduating majors and minors in mathematics and in data science.
Congratulations!*

ν_0 : From the Desk of the Chair

I am bursting with pride over the accomplishments of our students and faculty. Permit me to highlight three programs where our faculty and students worked together.

In the spring semester, across two different community outreach events at Ithaca College, we shared our enjoyment of mathematics with over 200 students, their families, and their teachers. At both events, IC faculty and student volunteers from across STEM ran math table activities. At Math Exploration Day, math faculty worked with the teachers on motivating student learning through problem-solving with the with students on solving the Prisoners' Dilemma.

On April 7, math majors and math minors, with the support of their faculty mentors, presented their research at the Whalen Symposium. Look at this variety of topics: hyperbolic geometry, math modeling, Catalan numbers, machine learning in cross country runners' standings, symmetries of stitching patterns, a novel method to generate pseudorandom numbers, and variants of Pascal's triangle.

Dear alumni and future alumni, there are many ways you can support what we do. Highlight your positive experiences at Ithaca College in your communities or ask your company to post job and internship opportunities to Handshake, which reaches IC students and beyond. Volunteer to talk with current students, follow our Instagram page [ic_math](#), request to join our LinkedIn Ithaca College Mathematics Alumni and Friends page, or donate to the Math Endowment during Giving Day. I encourage you to get involved! Interested, but not sure how? Contact me at any time at mathchair@ithaca.edu or 607-274-3460.

In closing, I congratulate our graduating students on earning their degrees. We will miss seeing you here, but we know that you are prepared to accomplish great deeds. Off you go!

Ted Galanthay, chair

ν_1 : Hats off to our Graduates

Alexis Brown is from Schenectady, NY, and an Architectural Studies major with a minor in Mathematics. She's also a member of the Ithaca Women's Track and Field team and Architecture Club. Her favorite aspect of the IC Math Department was the opportunity to develop connections in her mathematics coursework to Architecture. Alexis had many Architecture friends connected to the math department, so they would spend a lot of time in the architecture studio working through ways to apply their knowledge of calculus and linear algebra to their building designs. Next year, Alexis will be attending Clemson University to

pursue a Master of Architecture degree.

Suryash Malviya is graduating with a B.S. double major in Applied Physics and Computer Science and a minor in Mathematics. Much of his college journey was shaped by a desire to return to mathematics with greater depth and clarity, rebuilding his understanding from a stronger foundation. Driven by a passion for fundamental physics, Suryash was drawn to quantum computing, where the principles of quantum mechanics and computation merge. This focus, combined with his fascination for visualizing complex

systems, naturally led him into data and mathematical visualization. Through his interdisciplinary work, he has thrived on uncovering the deep connections between mathematics, quantum physics, and machine learning. After graduation, Suryash aims to continue working at the intersection of these fields, alongside his interests in mechanical and electronic engineering, while advocating for STEM education and making sciences more accessible to young learners.

Victoria Schecter is a senior at Ithaca College majoring in Music Education with a minor in Mathematics. One of her favorite memories from IC was her research exploring the connections between math and music, particularly how rhythm can support fraction learning in elementary students. She valued the opportunity to combine her interests while working closely with faculty and presenting her work at the Whalen Academic Symposium. Victoria also enjoyed her time working with young students through a K–2 choir program, where she helped foster confidence and creativity through singing and movement-based learning, and she was named a Fulbright U.S. Student Program Semi-Finalist for an English Teaching Assistantship in Spain. Post-graduation, she plans to continue teaching K–5 music while pursuing a master’s degree in special education and bilingual education, with the goal of supporting diverse learners and creating accessible, engaging musical spaces for all students.

Elayna VanDemark is from Schenectady, New York and will be graduating with a B.A. in mathematics.

She joined the math department after her first year at Ithaca College and has appreciated every experience including delving deeper into new topics. One of her favorite memories was her work with Math and Art and her further exploration during her research project on the symmetries of the stitching technique of Hitomezashi Sashiko on a diagonal grid. Elayna is still exploring different paths for her future, however, after graduation she is looking forward to using the new way of thinking, problem-solving, and many other things she has learned during her education in mathematics at IC.

Sarah Wrzos is a mathematics and computer science double major. Her favorite memories at Ithaca College include getting to travel across New York to different math conferences, where she had the chance to present her research on magic squares. As president of Math Club, one of the most memorable events was Origami Night, where students and professors gathered to build a 90-piece modular origami sculpture. It was a collaborative and fun group experience, and the two-foot-wide "triakis pentakis dodecahedron" at the end made it a really rewarding project. Next fall, Sarah will continue her studies in mathematics as a Ph.D. student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

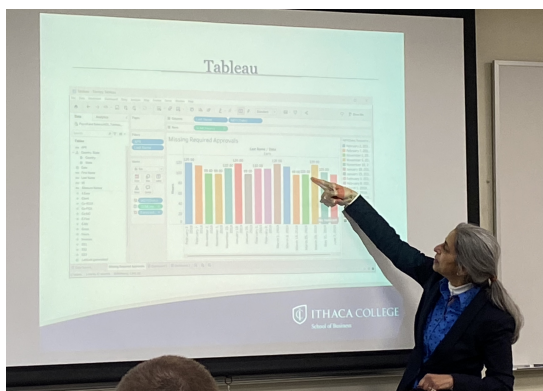
Jose Rojas, major in Mathematics/Physics

Trent Steller, major in Business Analytics, minors in Data Science and Computer Science

Emma Thorne, major in Television and Digital Media Production, minor in Mathematics

Cole Wissink, major in Computer Science, minor in Data Science

$\frac{1}{2}$: Math Department Happenings 2025-26



Professor Anu Goel Ghai (Accounting and Business Law) speaks as "The Accounting Detective" in the *Data Talks* series

The department continues to develop its data science

program, with a new data science major, joint with Computer Science, set to launch in Fall 2026 and several new data science courses in the works. **Dan Visscher** has taken on the role of our first data science coordinator. To kick off the program, this year’s colloquium series, *Data Talks*, featured speakers from around Ithaca College talking about how data plays a role in their research. (See more about the *Data Talks* series [here](#).)

Our students have been up to great things again this year! **Sarah Wrzos**, department all-star and Senior Award recipient, completed a senior capstone project in mathematics on “Folding Polygons to Polyhedra”

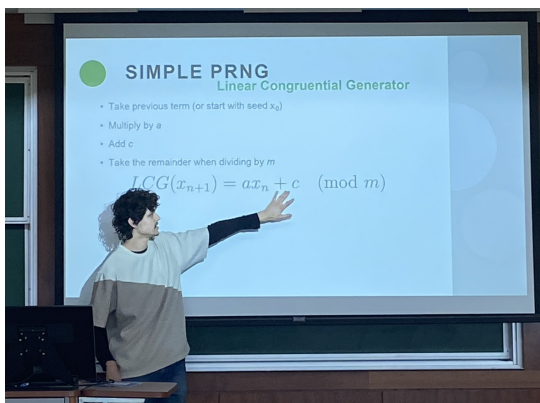
and a computer science senior project on “Hyperbolic Geometry Software for Multi-Model Visualization”, presented at the Whalen Symposium.



Sarah Wrzos, Brie Bownas '25, Kian Broderick '25 at

the 2026 Hudson River Undergraduate Mathematics Conference

Six other students presented their scholarly work at this year’s Whalen Symposium as well: **Leilani Adams** (“Modeling Homelessness with Systems of Differential Equations”); **Connor McGeehan** (two presentations! “Catalan Numbers, Borel’s Triangle, and Catalan Words”; “Data Science in Sports: Predicting DIII Cross-Country All-Americans”); **Elayna Van-Demark** (“Symmetries of Hitomezashi on a Diagonal Grid”); **Oscar Jimenez Rodriguez** (“Using Lehmer Codes to Generate Uniform Pseudo-Random Number Sequences”); **Olivia O’Hara** (“Exploring Variants in Pascal’s Triangle”); and **Victoria Schecter** (“From Longs and Breves to Halves and Quarters: Rhythm as a Pathway to Fraction Understanding”). Four faculty members—**Megan Martinez**, **Teresa Moore**, **Dan Visscher**, and **Dave Brown**—worked behind the scenes as faculty mentors.



Oscar Jimenez Rodriguez presents at the Whalen Symposium

In April, seventeen new members were initiated into the Ithaca College chapter of the Pi Mu Epsilon Honor Society, in recognition of their mathematical achievement: **Olivia O’Hara**; **Jade Stone**; **Connor McGeehan**; **Zach Ritchie**; **Alexander MacKenzie**; **Liam Breslin**; **Julia DiCostanzo**; **Rishabh Sen**; **Emma Thorne**; **Lillian Schick**; **Cole Alex Wissink**; **Anya M Kraenzel**; **Trent James Steller**; **Faith Ivy Owino**; **Lacey Dunn**; **Sierra R Dages**; and **Abigail Reppert**.



Our newest Pi Mu Epsilon members

The department continues its long tradition of welcoming the community to engage with mathematics through Community Math Day and Math Exploration Day. Community Math Day brings PreK-5 children and their families to the department to explore mathematics through games, puzzles, music, art, and other activities. Despite the blustery February weather for this year’s event (a high of 4°F!), over 75 participants spent the afternoon playing, exploring, and discovering with us.



Cup stacking puzzles at Math Exploration Day

In April, we hosted the 20th Annual Math Exploration Day, bringing together high school students and teachers from around the region for mathematical competition and exploration. This year’s event included 135 students and 24 teachers on 32 teams

from 14 schools. Thanks to the volunteers (faculty and students from departments across campus; alumni and friends of IC) who helped make both events a success.

Congratulations to **Joash Geteregechi**, who received tenure and was promoted to associate professor. **Aaron Weinberg** had several publications this year: a paper in *Acta Psychologica* about students' focus while watching instructional math videos; and two papers, co-authored with **Emilie Wiesner** and Ellie Fitts Fulmer (Education) in the conference proceedings of the *Annual Conference on Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education*, investigating how students and faculty focus their attention while a reading calculus textbook. **David Brown** and **Osman Yurekli** are on sabbatical this semester; we look forward to

hearing about their mathematical exploits when they return.



New associate professor Joash Geteregechi!

ν_3 : Farewell to Pete Maceli



Faculty and students at the 2025 Hudson River Undergraduate Mathematics Conference

After many years in academics, Prof. Pete Maceli is choosing to explore other interests and opportunities. Pete joined the faculty at Ithaca College in the fall of 2020. His background in graph theory, combinatorial optimization, data science, and operations research made him an excellent fit for the department. Pete contributed his expertise as we debated what we could effectively include in our new Data Science major. He taught statistics to diverse students at many levels and probability and graph theory to our majors, as well as Data Science with R to introduce students to skills to improve their marketability post-graduation. The department and the students he worked with appreciate his efforts with the Junior Seminar and Research sequence. He took students to the Hudson River Undergraduate Mathematics Conference

and to the Seaway Section of the Mathematical Association of America, where some presented their work. He connected students interested in applied problems with groups in town looking for expertise and gave talks to our students about the many paths his colleagues in mathematics had taken. Many of those contacts spoke in his classes to show students the benefits of a math degree. Now, Pete is moving in those other directions. We will miss him and his insights, but we wish him well with future endeavors.

—Teresa Moore

ν_4 : Happy retirement, Teresa Moore!

This year, we wish Professor Teresa Moore a very happy retirement! Teresa started teaching at IC in 1990 after completing a PhD in Geometric Topology at Binghamton University. She was attracted to this field after taking and loving a course in point set topology during her first year there. What drew Teresa to topology was that it included all of the ideas of math without the restrictions, allowing her the freedom to make deductions from the definitions. Moreover, it was fun!

Teresa taught a geometry course at Ithaca College for many years. This course differed from the geometry she studied in graduate school. She enjoyed helping students go beyond what they thought they knew to examine why they believed what they did. This invariably led to an exploration of an axiomatic system and

proofs. Alumnus Caleb McWhorter, in his Capstone thesis, gives thanks to Teresa who "helped me finally see proofs for what they are."

Teresa connected with so many different students. She fondly recalls the opportunities to work with students on amazing Capstone and honors projects. She loved teaching classes like Calculus 3 and Geometry that open students up to worlds in mathematics that they haven't seen before. She also had fun teaching the course "What is math?" If you happened to be outside of her office during her office hours, you might also have heard her students open up to her, sometimes sharing their entire life story. Former students repeatedly speak of Teresa as a mentor whose guidance shaped their academic and professional paths. They turned to her for advice about graduate school, teaching, research projects, and personal challenges, and they remember with gratitude the time, care, and encouragement that she gave them.



Teresa met future collaborator Chris Kinsey at a series on high-dimensional manifold topology which led to co-writing the book *Symmetry, Shape, and Space: An introduction to Mathematics through Geometry*. This book opened up the exploration of geometry to students who didn't like math, or thought they didn't like math, but needed to take a math course to satisfy a liberal arts requirement. It challenges students' ideas of what math is and how you do math. One student wrote, "I have come to love math thanks to this course and Prof. Moore's excellent instruction." She taught students that what is important in math is coming up with ideas, coming up with justifications for these ideas, and then revising the ideas. This collaboration with Professor Kinsey led to a second book, *Geometry and Symmetry*.

Teresa was very active outside of the teaching and scholarship arenas. She started and organized for many years the department's well-attended Math Exploration Day, which attracts more than 125 high school students to campus each March. She enjoyed very much helping to design Ithaca College's now-defunct HS Honors program. She contributed to defining what a Quantitative Literacy course is at Ithaca College, and she served on the Grievance Committee where she helped to improve the resolution process. Within the department, while serving on the Personnel Committee, she helped shepherd 14 tenure and promotion cases to their successful completion. One summer, she accompanied students and faculty to MathFest in Washington, D.C. to explore the geometry of balloon sculptures. She also served on an MAA panel where she described what it is like to teach at a liberal arts college.

When I asked Teresa what her favorite memory is of Ithaca College, she said, without hesitation, that it is the people she's worked with.

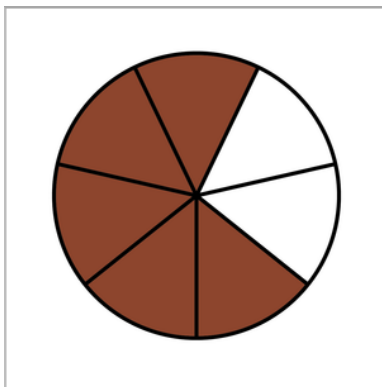
So, wherever you are, be sure to congratulate Professor Teresa Moore on an amazing career. She has made a lasting positive impact on thousands of Ithaca College students, faculty, and staff. Thank you Teresa for showing us how it's done! Congratulations!

—Ted Galanthay

ν_5 : What's the Problem... with Professor Brown

Professor Brown is on sabbatical this semester—best wishes for a fun and productive sabbatical!—so we have a classic problem to share: *The Cake Icing Problem*.

You have a round cake, with frosting on the top and sides but not the bottom (that is, a cake iced in the standard fashion.) You cut a piece of the cake at an angle θ and flip it over, so the icing is on the bottom instead of the top. You rotate counterclockwise and cut and flip another slice of cake with an angle θ adjacent to the first. Repeat this process.



- Will it happen that you ever end up with all the icing on the top? (For which angles? How many steps?)
- Will it happen that you ever end up with all the icing on the bottom? (For which angles? How many steps?)

If you want to visualize this process (and try out different angles), check out this [Wolfram demonstration](#). You can send solutions to Emilie Wiesner (ewiesner@ithaca.edu).

...get more department news and photos at:

 [Ithaca College Mathematics Alumni and Friends](#)

 [ic_math](#)