

THE SUMTIMES



IN THIS ISSUE

CELEBRATING OUR
NEWEST DOCTORS!

FUR AND PLANT BABIES!

DATES YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

SUMMER ADVENTURES

MGB PICNIC

SIAM'S 3MT COMPETITION

RECOMMENDATIONS

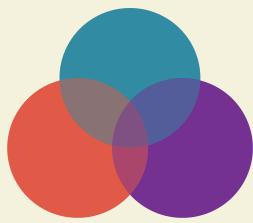
HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR
FELLOW GRADUATE STUDENTS?

Dear Readers,

As we enter the final week of spring classes, we are reflecting on yet another semester that has flown by. We thoroughly enjoy writing about you all and sharing all your accomplishments and milestones with the department; and we want to say thank you to all of our readers and contributors, without whom this newsletter would not be possible. With this final edition of the SumTimes of the spring 2023 semester, we want to say a special farewell to our graduating students. We wish all of our spring and summer graduates the absolute best, and we cannot wait to see all of the amazing things you all do. Thank you for being our mentors, our closest friends, and our champions. You will be dearly missed.

Much Love,

Margarita & Jessa



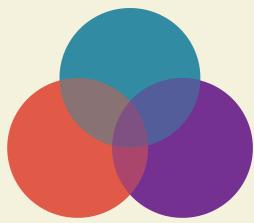
DR. NITESH MATHUR



I had a great time at the University of Iowa over the last few years.
Thank you to all the graduate students for the support!

-Nitesh



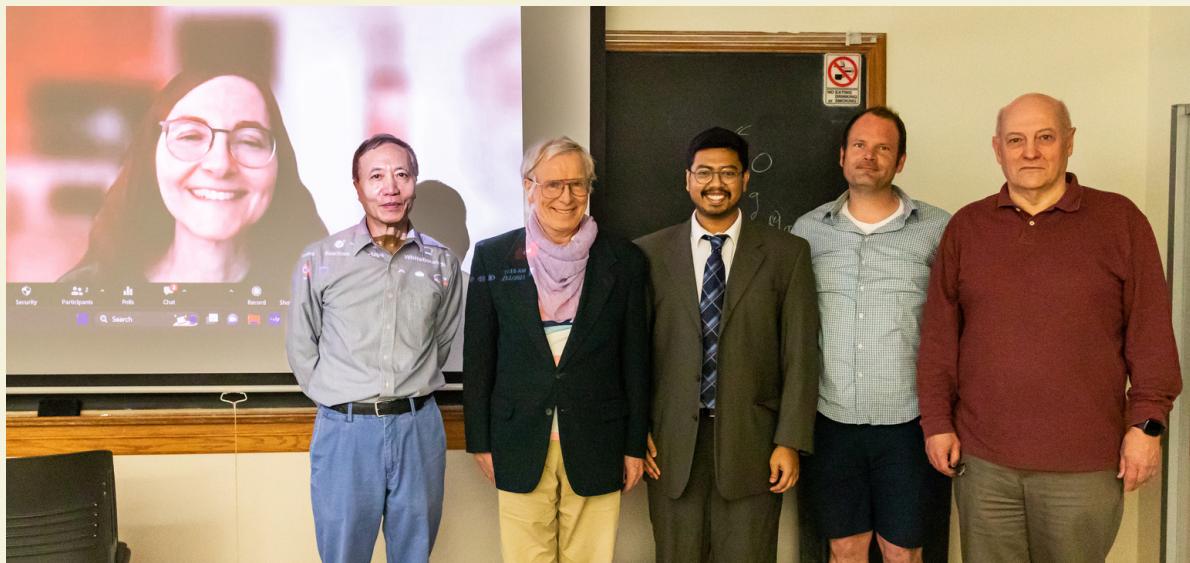


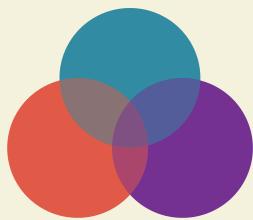
DR. PRANEEL SAMANTA



The biggest thing I have learned during the years leading to my Ph.D. is the importance in networking. Networking is how you discover newer research avenues, develop a wider outlook within your field, and build effectual collaborations. Find an activity outside mathematics you are passionate about and use it to complement your school duties. Prioritize your mental health and ask for help when needed.

-Praneel





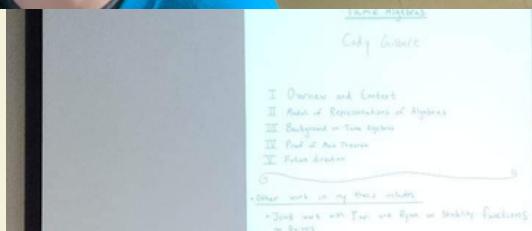
DR. CODY GILBERT

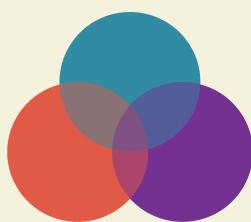


Cody will begin the next chapter in his book of life as a post-doctoral scholar in St. Louis!



Congrats!

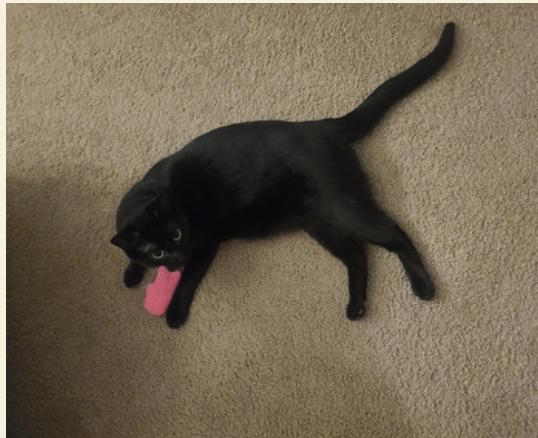




PET AND PLANT BABIES!



Fatou's plant babies!



(above) Natalie's cat, Midnight

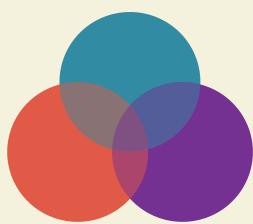


(right) Jessa's dogs: Champ
(driving the car) & Reese



(left) Margarita's plants!





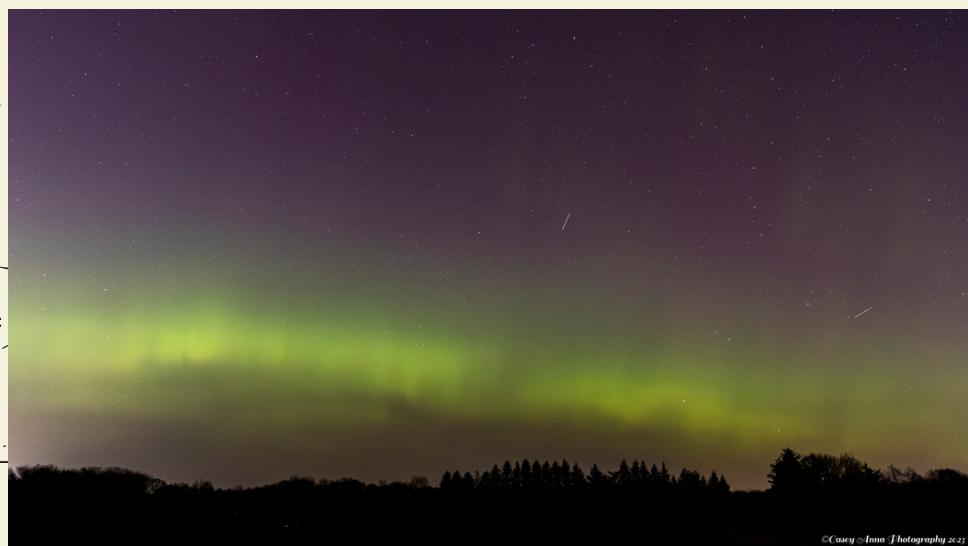
THE AURORA BOREALIS COMES TO THE MIDWEST



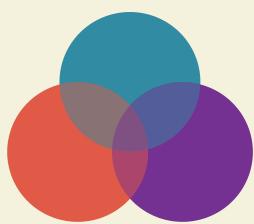
For a rare moment, people in Iowa were able to see the Aurora Borealis! Casey Stone and Jose David Beltran Lizarazo were able to take amazing photos! Enjoy!



©Casey & Anna Photography 2021



©Casey & Anna Photography 2021



BIRTHDAYS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

HAPPY
Birthday

Casey Stone

May 17th

Joseph Sauder

May 21st



Fatou Kineh Ndow

May 23rd

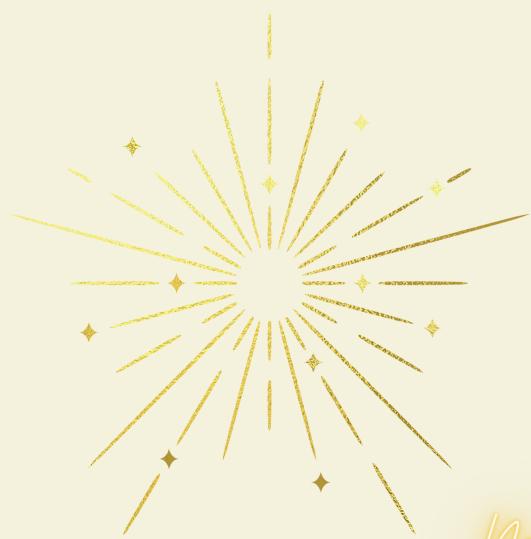
Zach Bryhtan

June 9th

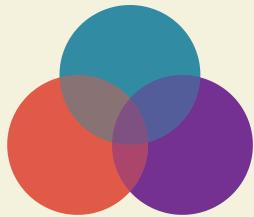


Nikita Kapur

July 23rd



Mark Your Calendars!



ACADEMIC MILESTONES

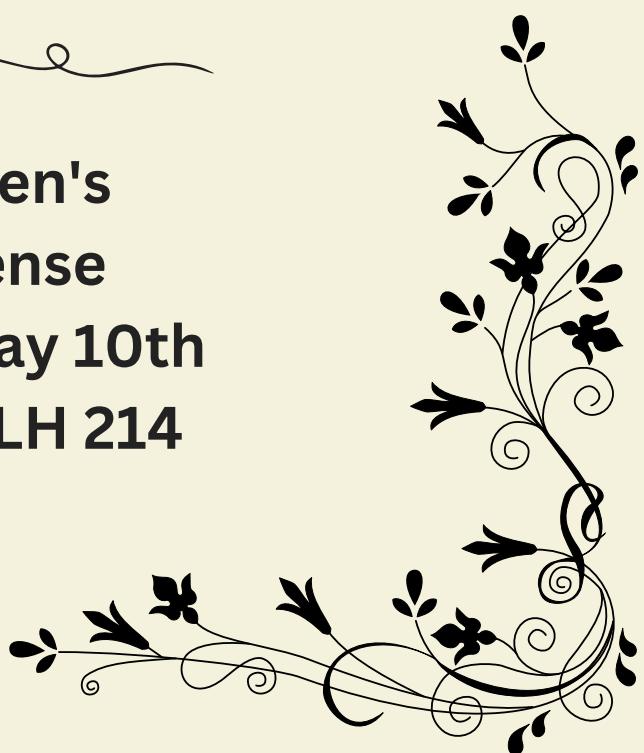


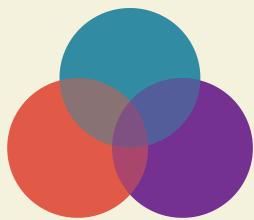
**Natalie Randall's
Comprehensive Exam
May 1st, 10am**

**Juan Felipe Ariza Mejia's
Comprehensive Exam
May 1st, 5pm**



**Andy Nguyen's
Thesis Defense
Wednesday, May 10th
11:30 am in MLH 214**





SUMMER PLANS & MEMORIES



We asked our fellow colleagues:
What are your plans for the summer and what is your favorite summer memory?
Here's what they have to say!



Yari will be graduating this summer! Be on the lookout for her thesis defense date. Furthermore, Yari has obtained a 2-year postdoctoral position and tenure-track position at Macalester College! Way to go Yari! You deserve it!

One of my favorite summer memories occurred while I was a little kid. My godparents bought this massive above ground pool. One weekend, two of my cousins came to visit. We spent the entire day in the pool swimming and playing games. At the end of the day, I was extremely sunburnt. I was so red that I had to sleep sitting down on one of our couch chairs. I will never forget that wonderful day!!!

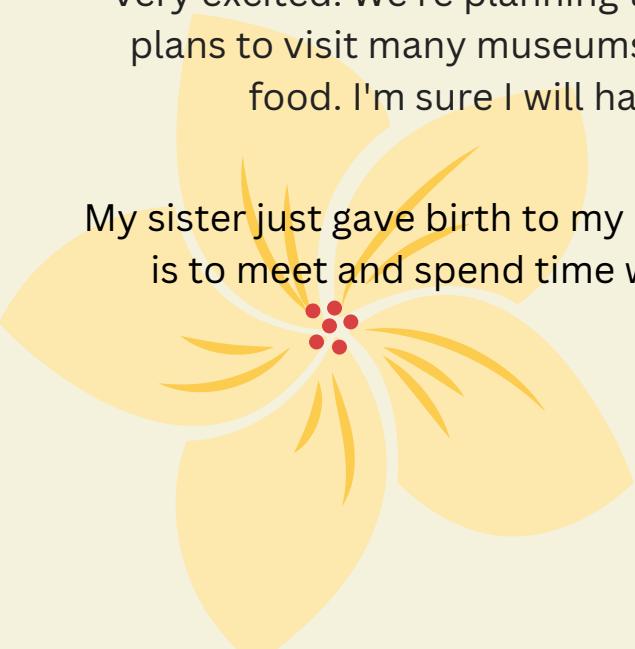
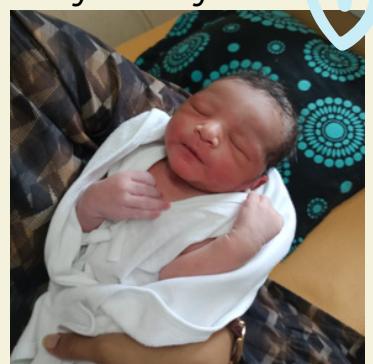
-Margarita

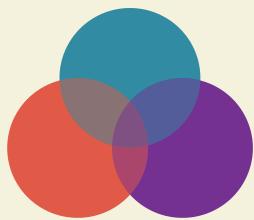
This summer, Schuyler and I are going to Italy for our honeymoon! We are very excited. We're planning to visit Rome, Venice, and Florence. We have plans to visit many museums, go on a gondola ride, and eat lots of great food. I'm sure I will have pictures to share when we return.

-Kitrick

My sister just gave birth to my beautiful nephew, so my plan for the summer is to meet and spend time with this lovely new member of my family.

-Nandita

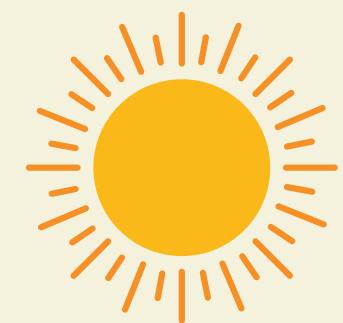




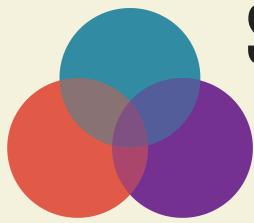
M G B P I C N I C !



This spring's math department picnic was a big hit! We had loads of fun, and we have the pictures to prove it! Thanks so much to everyone who came out, and thanks to our MGB social co-chairs for hosting such a wonderful event!

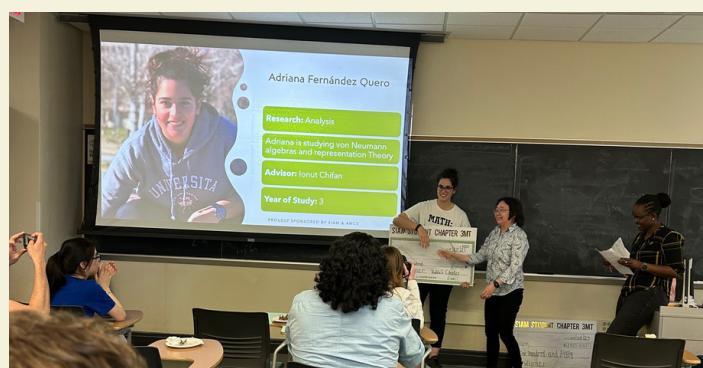
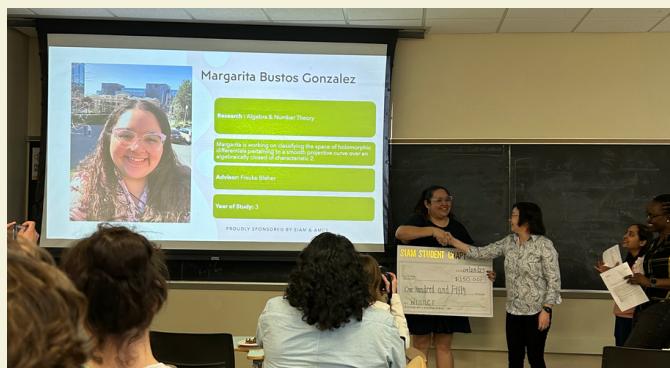
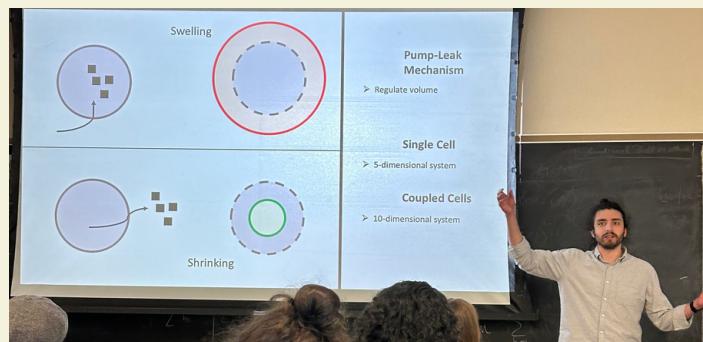
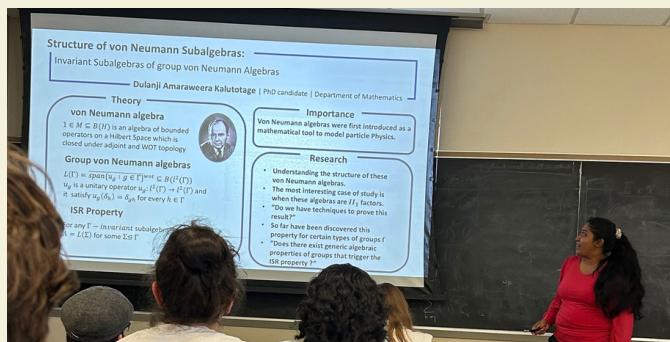
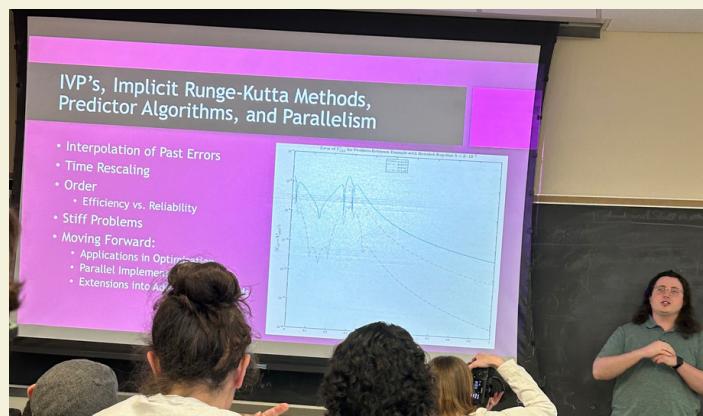
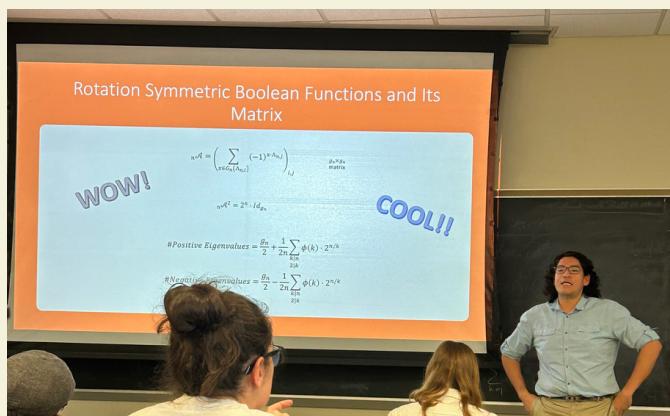


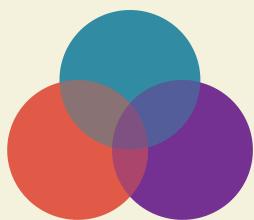
fun in the sun



SIAM STUDENT CHAPTER 3MT COMPETITION

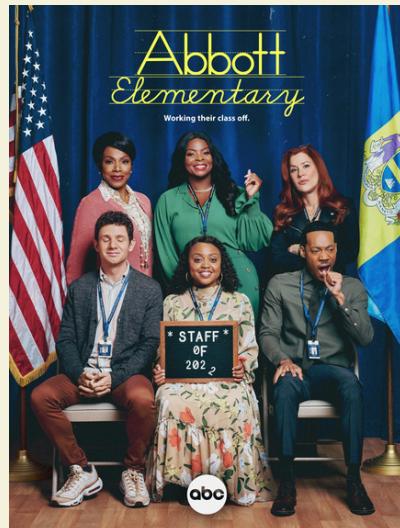
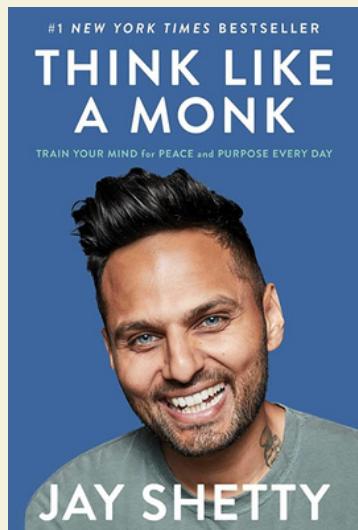
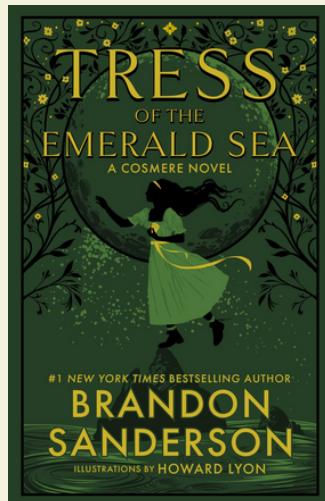
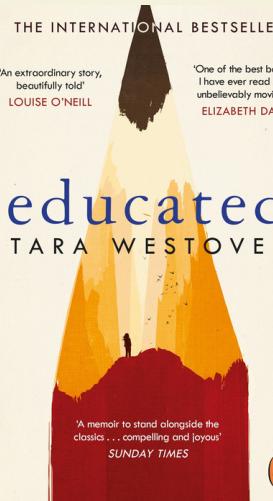
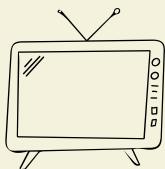
This past Friday, April 28th, the SIAM Student chapter hosted a 3-minute research competition called 3MT (3 Minute Thesis). The 3MT is a research communication competition that challenges graduate students to clearly and concisely articulate complex research to non-specialist audiences. Contestants were judged based on how well they communicated their research to an educated lay audience. A huge congratulations to the participants: Manny, Margarita, Joey, Niki, Kerry, and Adriana! And an extra special congratulations to the 3MT winner, Margarita, and the 3MT peoples' choice winner, Adriana!

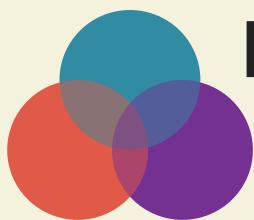




BOOK AND SERIES RECOMMENDATIONS

With summer just around the corner, we hope you all will have free time to read a few books for fun or binge a new series. Here are a few of our own personal recommendations to help get you started!





HOW WELL DO WE REALLY KNOW EACH OTHER?

For this newsletter's puzzle, we have decided to poll our graduate students for fun facts about themselves. Can you match the person (letter) to their fact (number)?

If you get all of them correct, you win a prize from us!

Submit your responses to us via email by the end of the day on Friday, May 5th!

Name Bank:

- A. Elise Askelsen
- B. James Hay
- C. Kitrick Fynaardt
- D. Jessa Rhea
- E. Andy Nguyen
- F. George Clare Kennedy
- G. Nandita Nair
- H. Natalie Randall
- I. Daniel Kakou
- J. Fatou Ndow
- K. Garrett Mason
- L. Yilin Zhu
- M. Joey Small
- N. Sam Holen
- O. Joe Starr
- P. Parker Evans
- Q. Casey Stone
- R. Claire Christian
- S. Praneel Samanta
- T. Eddie White
- U. Paria Karimi
- V. Anna Leinheiser
- W. Margarita
- Bustos Gonzalez
- X. Joseph Sauder
- Y. Nicholas Cecil
- Z. Kevin Del Real Ramos

Fun Facts:

- 1. There are 3 of us in the department, but I shine the brightest!
- 2. I've driven an unmarked police cruiser.
- 3. I am the first child out of eight.
- 4. I was yellow when I was born.
- 5. I have a spot on my tongue that moves and changes shape.
- 6. I am three days older than my twin.
- 7. I have been on 3 different continents!
- 8. I am an All-American athlete in Esports. Specifically, I was the team captain and main tank player for the Northwestern Overwatch Team.
- 9. I was hospitalized for a week because of my asthma.
- 10. My name was inspired by a song by Dan Seals.
- 11. I grew up drawing and thought I was going to be an artist/ graphic designer.
- 12. I've been stung by a stingray!
- 13. I once had a panic attack at a cook out because they wanted me to order two sides but I only wanted one (I was drunk).
- 14. I had a strawberry hemangioma that had to be removed when I was a toddler.
- 15. My dog is named after a Great Old One within the pantheon of Lovecraftian cosmic entities.
- 16. I hate video games.
- 17. I like 1800s Russian literature.
- 18. I've won many logic/cryptography-based puzzling competitions.
- 19. I've gone swimming with dolphins!
- 20. I consume over 30 eggs every week.
- 21. I have two different colored eyes.
- 22. Despite being a musician for my entire adult life, I only just recently saw my first real concert -- Black Midi in Chicago last Fall!
- 23. I was born with an extra bone in my wrist.
- 24. I formed a classical music group/band when I was in my undergraduate program.
- 25. I enjoy horseback riding.
- 26. In high school, being younger and dumber, I would do backyard boxing every Friday where a bunch of kids would just beat each other up.