

THE SUMTIMES

DECEMBER 2025

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UNIVERSITY OF
IOWA MATHEMATICS
DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

AWM GAME NIGHT



UNIVERSITY OF IOWA MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

GIRL'S NIGHT



GRAD LIFE

CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR LOVELY CLAIRE ON HER
BEAUTIFUL BABY GIRL, LAYTON



UNIVERSITY OF IOWA MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

GRAD LIFE



AURORA BOREALIS
COURTESY OF GEORGE

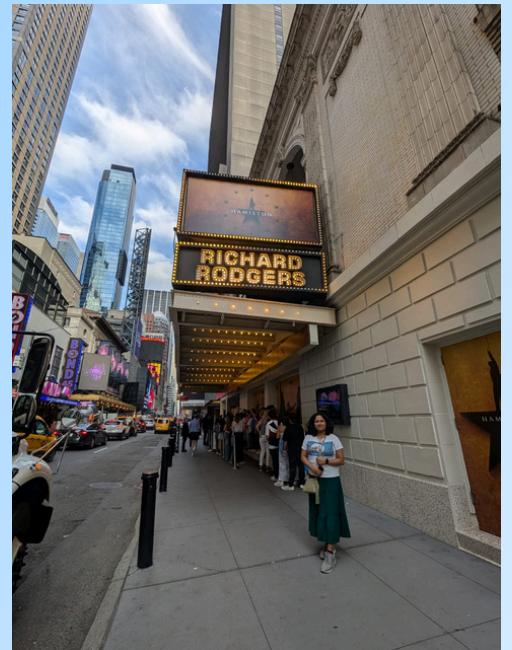


JOE'S NIGHT

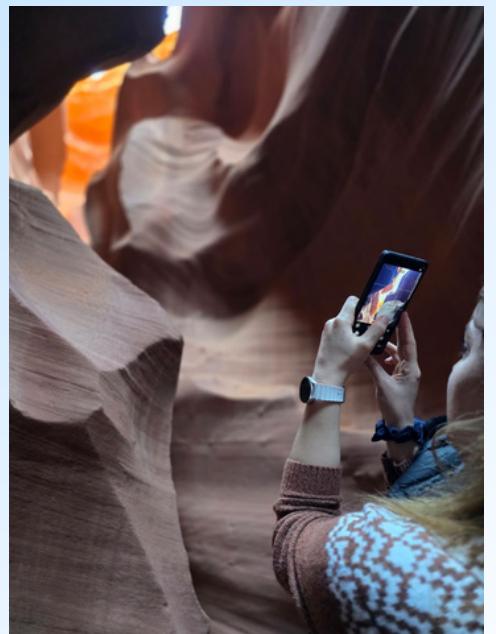


GRAD LIFE

NANDITA IN NYC



FATEMEH IN ANTELOPE CANYON



HALLOWEEN ADVENTURES



AWM STUDENT CHAPTER INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT

PARIA KARIMI



NANDITA NAIR

PARIA: FOR THOSE WHO MIGHT BE UNFAMILIAR, WHAT IS THE PRIMARY MISSION OF THE UIOWA AWM CHAPTER, AND HOW DO YOU SEE IT SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT?

NANDITA: THE ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN MATHEMATICS (AWM) IS A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT PROMOTES EQUITABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND GENDER-INCLUSIVITY IN MATHEMATICS, AND PROVIDES A SAFE COMMUNITY FOR ALL MINORITIES TO THRIVE IN THEIR MATHEMATICAL PURSUITS. THE AWM STUDENT CHAPTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA WAS STARTED LAST YEAR WITH THE SAME IDEAS, AND WITH A SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON SUPPORTING THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT COMMUNITY. WE MAINLY HOST CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS TAILORED TO THE MATHEMATICS STUDENTS AND SOCIAL EVENTS FOR COMMUNITY-BUILDING.

PARIA: HOW HAS BEING PART OF THE AWM SHAPED YOUR EXPERIENCE AS A STUDENT HERE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA?

NANDITA: BEING PART OF AWM, AND RUNNING IT AS PRESIDENT, HAS BEEN A WAY FOR ME TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTED ME WHEN I REALLY NEEDED IT. THE GRADUATE STUDENT CHAPTER STARTED IN 2024, SO IT'S VERY YOUNG AND THERE'S A LOT OF POTENTIAL FOR IDEAS AND GROWTH WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION. IT'S VERY EXCITING TO BE ABLE TO SHAPE PARTS OF THE ORGANIZATION, AND I'VE ESPECIALLY ENJOYED GETTING TO KNOW AND

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WORK WITH MY AMAZING LEADERSHIP TEAM, AND BUILD CONNECTIONS WITH DIFFERENT PEOPLE IN THE DEPARTMENT AND IN THE BROADER UNIVERSITY NETWORK. GRAD SCHOOL IS HARD, SO AWM HAS ALSO BEEN A SPACE WHERE I COULD HELP SUPPORT GRADUATE STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH AND BRING IN MORE RELAXED, SOCIAL EVENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT. OVERALL, I'D SAY I'VE HAD A PRETTY POSITIVE EXPERIENCE, AND I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO HAVE BEEN A PART OF THIS COMMUNITY.

PARIA: WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EVENTS OR INITIATIVES THE CHAPTER HAS HOSTED RECENTLY, AND WHY DO YOU THINK THEY RESONATED WITH THE COMMUNITY?

NANDITA: I THINK WHAT'S RESONATED THE MOST WITH THE COMMUNITY IS THE FREE PIZZA AND OTHER FOODS THAT WE HAVE AT ALL OUR EVENTS! ON THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SIDE, WE'VE HOSTED WORKSHOPS ON COVER LETTER BUILDING, GRANT WRITING, STRESS AND TIME MANAGEMENT AND OTHERS THAT HAVE BEEN ENLIGHTENING. APART FROM THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO US BY OUR CAMPUS PARTNERS THAT RUN THE WORKSHOP, THESE EVENTS HAVE SPARKED DISCUSSIONS ABOUT JOB SEARCHES AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL GOALS BETWEEN GRADUATE STUDENTS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THEIR PHD JOURNEY, AND WE'RE GLAD THAT THESE WORKSHOPS HAVE BEEN A SPACE FOR THESE IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS TO NATURALLY EMERGE. ON THE MORE SOCIAL SIDE, WE'VE HAD AN ORIGAMI NIGHT, A GAME NIGHT, AND CO-HOSTED GIRL'S NIGHT 2025 WITH SIAM, ALL OF WHICH WERE REALLY FUN AND RELAXING. THE GENERAL PLAN IS TO HOST 2 CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS AND AT LEAST ONE SOCIAL EVENT IN EACH SEMESTER. THE TEAM IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR IDEAS FOR EVENTS TO HOST – SO IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN IN THE DEPARTMENT, LET US KNOW!

PARIA: HOW CAN THE WIDER DEPARTMENT—INCLUDING FACULTY AND STUDENTS OF ALL GENDERS—BETTER SUPPORT THE GOALS OF THE AWM?

NANDITA: THE WIDER DEPARTMENT CAN SUPPORT AWM IN A BUNCH OF SIMPLE BUT MEANINGFUL WAYS:

- FIRST, SHOW UP TO OUR EVENTS! IT'S WAY MORE FUN AND VALUABLE WHEN THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE TO ENGAGE IN GOOD DISCUSSIONS, AND YOU MIGHT EVEN LEARN SOMETHING NEW OUTSIDE OF A NORMAL ACADEMIC SETTING.
- GIVE US SUGGESTIONS FOR EVENTS OR ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO SEE THE CHAPTER DO. BEING SUCH A YOUNG ORGANIZATION, YOU'RE IN THE RIGHT TIME AND PLACE TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE ETHOS OF THIS CHAPTER – MAKE USE OF IT.

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- VOLUNTEER WITH US! THE LEADERSHIP TEAM OF THE AWM CHAPTER CHANGES YEARLY, WITH ELECTIONS BEING HELD LATE IN THE SPRING SEMESTER TO SELECT THE LEADERSHIP FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR. IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE PART OF THE TEAM FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027, RESPOND TO THE CALL FOR POSITIONS WE WILL SEND OUT SOMETIME THIS SEMESTER, AND MAYBE TAKE SOME INITIATIVE – VOLUNTEER TO RUN AN EVENT OR TWO WITH THE CURRENT TEAM TO LEARN THE ROPES!
- AND FOR FACULTY OR ANYONE WITH THE ABILITY TO, DONATE! WE'RE SETTING UP WAYS TO ACCEPT FUNDING THROUGH THE STUDENT ORGANIZATION BUSINESS OFFICE, AND IT WOULD BE AMAZING NOT TO STRESS ABOUT WHERE THE MONEY FOR THE NEXT PIZZA OR EVENT WILL COME FROM.

PARIA: MY LAST QUESTION, HOW CAN STUDENTS JOIN THE AWM?

NANDITA: GREAT QUESTION! IF YOU'RE A GRADUATE STUDENT IN THE MATH DEPARTMENT, YOU CAN JOIN AWM BY ACCEPTING THE ENGAGE UIOWA INVITATION SENT TO YOUR UNIVERSITY EMAIL ON 06/11/2025, OR BY VISITING [THIS LINK](#), LOGGING IN, AND CLICKING 'JOIN'. ONCE YOU JOIN, YOUR UNIVERSITY EMAIL WILL BE ADDED TO THE AWM STUDENT CHAPTER AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL AWM, AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ACCESS THE AWM NEWSLETTER AND OTHER PERKS FROM THE NATIONAL CHAPTER.

CURRENT EXECUTIVE BOARD:



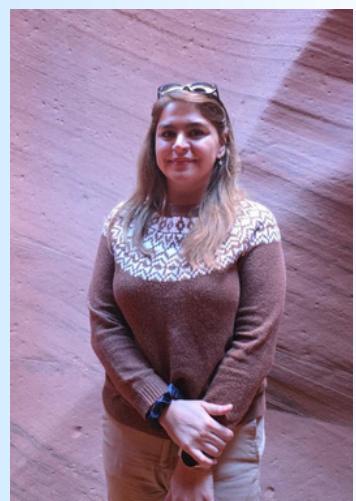
MERRICK DODGE,
VICE-PRESIDENT



PARIA KARIMI,
TREASURER



SHEETAL,
SECRETARY



FATEMEH
SHANEHSAZAN,
SOCIAL MEDIA
MANAGER

FIRST YEAR PROFILES



BRYAN DUCASSE

HOMETOWN: FLORIDA

PREVIOUS DEGREE: BACHELORS AND MASTERS IN MATH AT UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

REASON FOR COMING TO IOWA:
PARTIALLY WANTED A BETTER PLACE
TO LIVE WITH HIS WIFE, AND
PARTIALLY BECAUSE OF THE ANALYSIS
GROUP

RESEARCH INTERESTS: HARMONIC AND SPECTRAL ANALYSIS, SPECIFICALLY FUGLEDE'S CONJECTURE

HOBBIES: BRAZILIAN JIU JITSU

FAVOURITE PART OF IOWA: CORAL RIDGE MALL FOR DATES

CLAIRE ROCHFORD

HOME: COLORODO SPRINGS COLORODO

PREVIOUS DEGREE: BS IN MATH EDUCATION

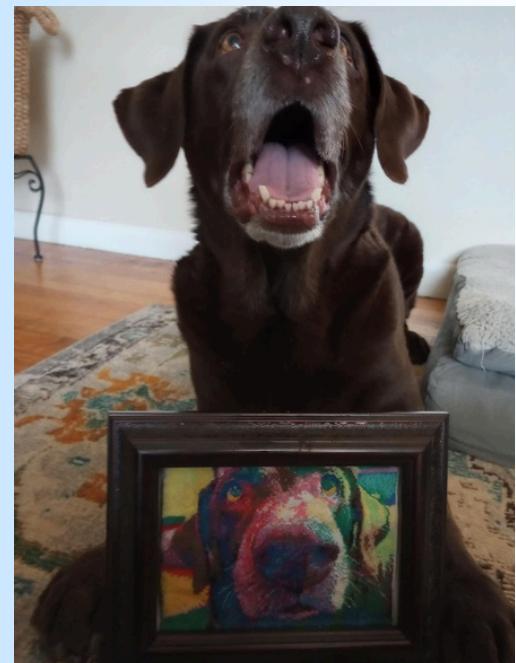
HOBBIES: CROSS STITCHING AND

EMBROIDERY

REASON FOR COMING TO IOWA: IT'S CLOSE
TO HER HUSBANDS FAMILY

FUN FACT: CLAIRE PREVIOUSLY TAUGHT 6-
12TH GRADE MATH FOR 3 YEARS

PICTURED: HER 13 YR OLD CHOCOLATE LAB
WHO IS DEAF AND HALF BLIND (CLAIRE CAN
BE SEEN IN THE GIRL'S NIGHT PHOTOS IN
THE RED STRIPED SHIRT)



COMPS AND DEFENSES!

CONGRATULATIONS ON COMPING

- LIZ BRASS
- JAVIER FLORES ARJONA
- ASHWIN AYILLIATH KUTTERI
- FATEMEH SHANEHSAZAN
- PATRICK CONWAY
- PARIA KARIMI

CONGRATULATIONS ON DEFENDING

- UMESH ARAMPATH
- NATALIE RANDALL
- KERRY TERRANT

CONGRATULATIONS KIT ON
GETTING A JOB!

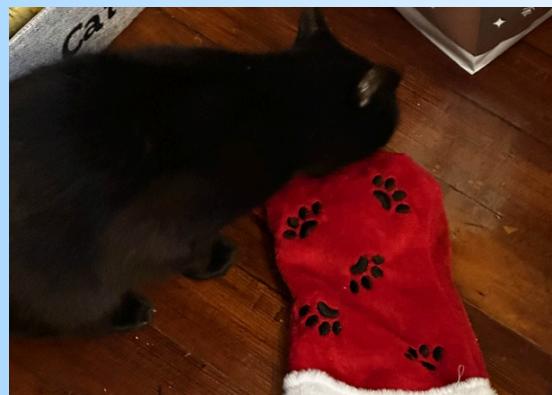
MATH PETS!



NANDITA'S CAT, GRAMMY



MARC'S CAT, LENTIL



MARC'S CAT, BEAN



BLAKE'S CAT, BUSTER,
BEGGING FOR ATTENTION



LIZ'S DOG, ALEX BRASS

MATH PETS!

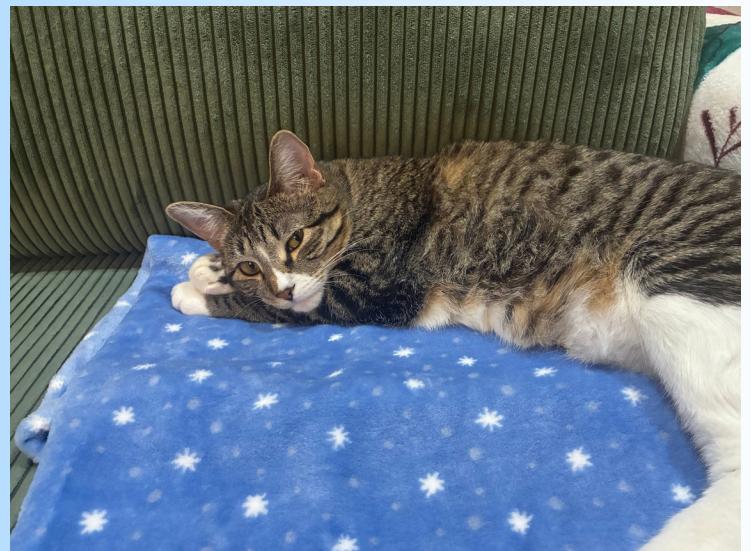
GEORGE'S DOG



PARIA'S CAT, DELBAR



PARIA'S CAT, JUNE



Blake's Chicken Noodle Soup

INGREDIENTS:

- ¼ CUP OF BUTTER
- 1 CUP CHOPPED CELERY
- ¼ CUP CHOPPED ONION
- ¼ CUP CHOPPED CARROTS
- 12 CUPS WATER
- 4 CUPS CHOPPED, COOKED CHICKEN MEAT
- 9 CUBES CHICKEN BOUILLON
- 1 TABLESPOON DRIED PARSLEY
- ½ TEASPOON DRIED MARJORAM
- ½ TEASPOON BLACK PEPPER
- 1 BAY LEAF
- 8 OUNCES EGG NOODLES

INSTRUCTIONS:

MELT BUTTER IN A LARGE STOCKPOT OVER MEDIUM-HIGH HEAT. SAUTE CELERY AND ONION IN HOT BUTTER UNTIL SLIGHTLY SOFTENED. ADD WATER, CHICKEN, BOUILLON, CARROTS, PARSLEY, MARJORAM, PEPPER, AND BAY LEAF. SIMMER FOR 30 MINUTES. STIR IN NOODLES AND SIMMER UNTIL PASTA IS TENDER, ABOUT 10 MORE MINUTES.

SAM'S BUFFALO CHICKEN DIP

INGREDIENTS:

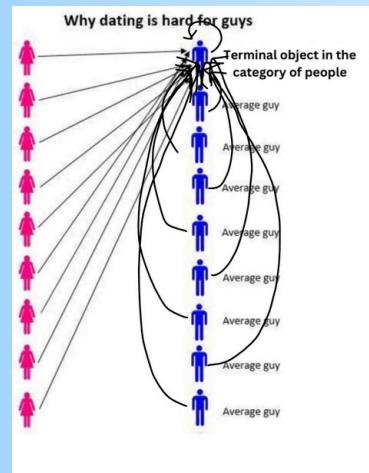
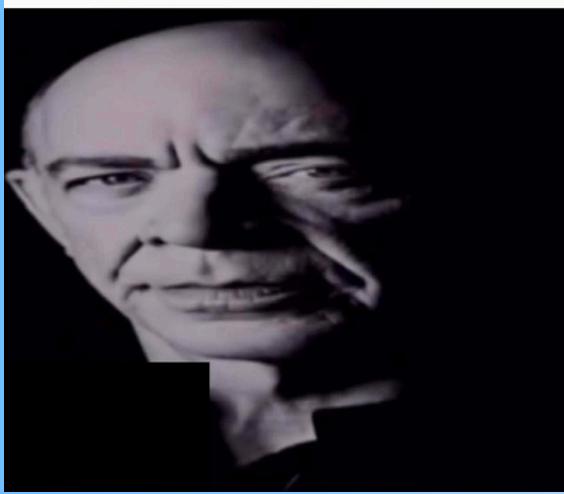
- 2 CHICKEN BREASTS (OR 3 CUPS OF SHREDDED CHICKEN)
- 8 OZ CREAM CHEESE
- $\frac{1}{3}$ CUP RANCH DRESSING (CAN ALSO USE BLUE CHEESE)
- $\frac{2}{3}$ CUP BUFFALO SAUCE
- 1 CUP SHREDDED MOZZARELLA CHEESE
- 1 CUP SHREDDED MEXICAN CHEESE
- TOSTITOS OR DORITOS FOR SERVING

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) PREHEAT OVEN TO 375 F
- 2) SEASON AND COOK CHICKEN. (SAM USES A COMBO OF PAPRIKA, GARLIC POWDER, ONION POWDER, AND ADOBO)
- 3) SHRED CHICKEN OR DICE IT INTO SMALL CUBES
- 4) IN BOWL, COMBINE CREAM CHEESE, RANCH, AND BUFFALO SAUCE UNTIL SMOOTH
- 5) MIX IN COOKED CHICKEN AND CHEESE UNTIL WELL COMBINED
- 6) TRANSFER INTO BAKING DISH
- 7) SPRINKLE A LAYER OF CHEESE ON TOP
- 8) BAKE FOR 20-35 MINUTES (20-25 FOR 9X13 OR 30-35 FOR 8X8) OR UNTIL CHEESE IS MELTED AND BUBBLING ON THE SIDES
- 9) SERVE WITH CHIPS

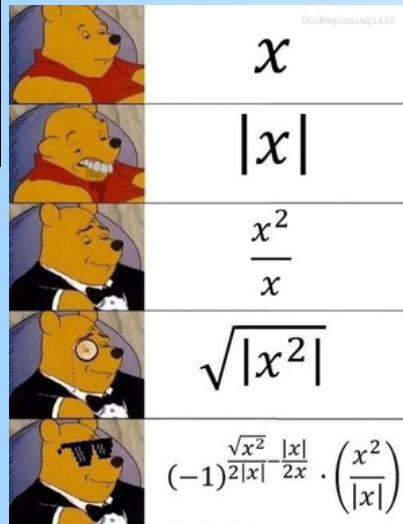
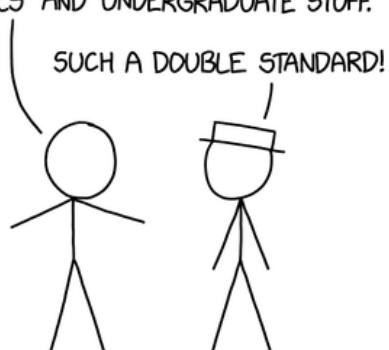
Here Be the Math Memes

Mathematicians when you say “ $2+2=4$ ” without first defining the Peano-Dedekind axioms and ontological legitimacy of numbers as an equivalence class of cardinalities under bijective mappings:

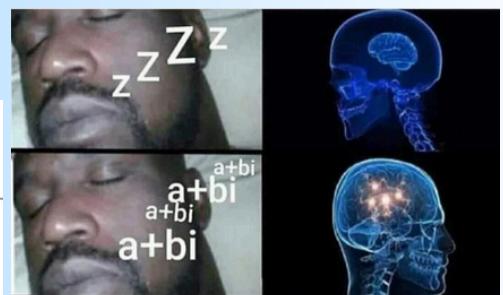


Posted in r/mathmemes by u/Cocobb8 reddit

SURE, WHEN EINSTEIN SUGGESTS USING THE LORENTZ TRANSFORM TO EXPLAIN THE CONNECTION BETWEEN VELOCITY AND TIME, PEOPLE CALL HIM A GENIUS. BUT WHEN I SUGGEST IT, IT'S "BASIC PHYSICS" AND "UNDERGRADUATE STUFF."

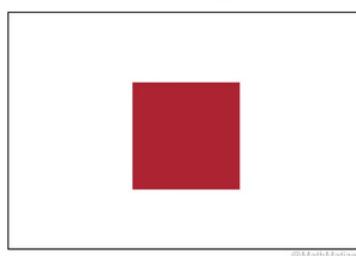


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Flag of Japan
but in the L_∞ norm



@MathMazeze

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