

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

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COVER CAPTURED BY SHASHANK SINGH



EDITORS' NOTE



Dearest friends and hated enemies,

We, the editors of SumTimes would like to thank you for a great two semesters of newsletters. Your contributions are what make the newsletter great. We hope that you all have enjoyed each others' photography, book recommendations, events, pets, interviews and memes. Putting together this newsletter has been a great opportunity to learn more about everyone. Congratulations on finishing the semester, and good luck to our incoming editors Paria and Liz. May you both take the newsletter to new heights.

Thanks and farewell,
Evelyn and Nandita



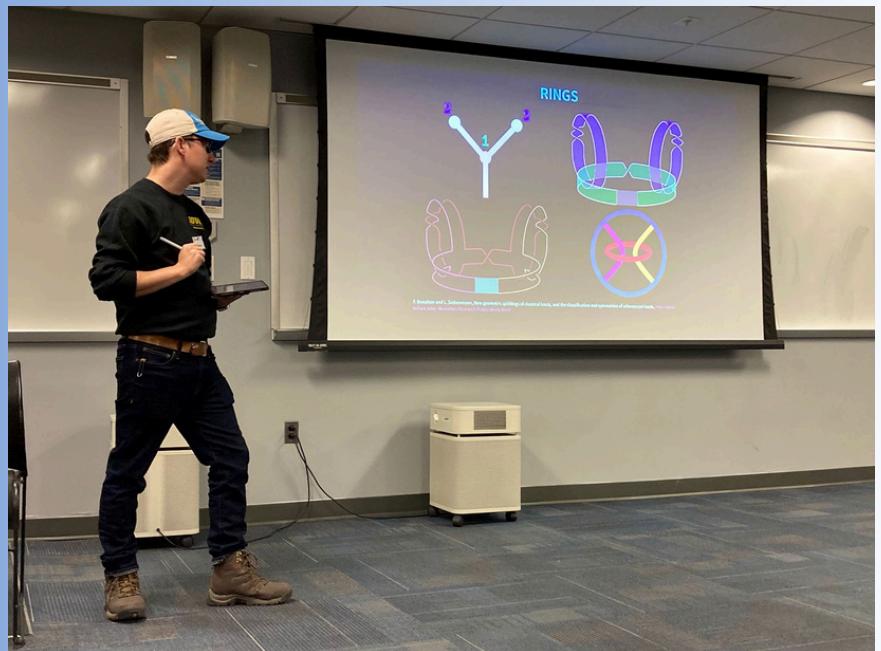
GRADUATE LIFE



Nikita Kapur tried acrylic painting for the first time over the summer, and here's her lovely attempts!



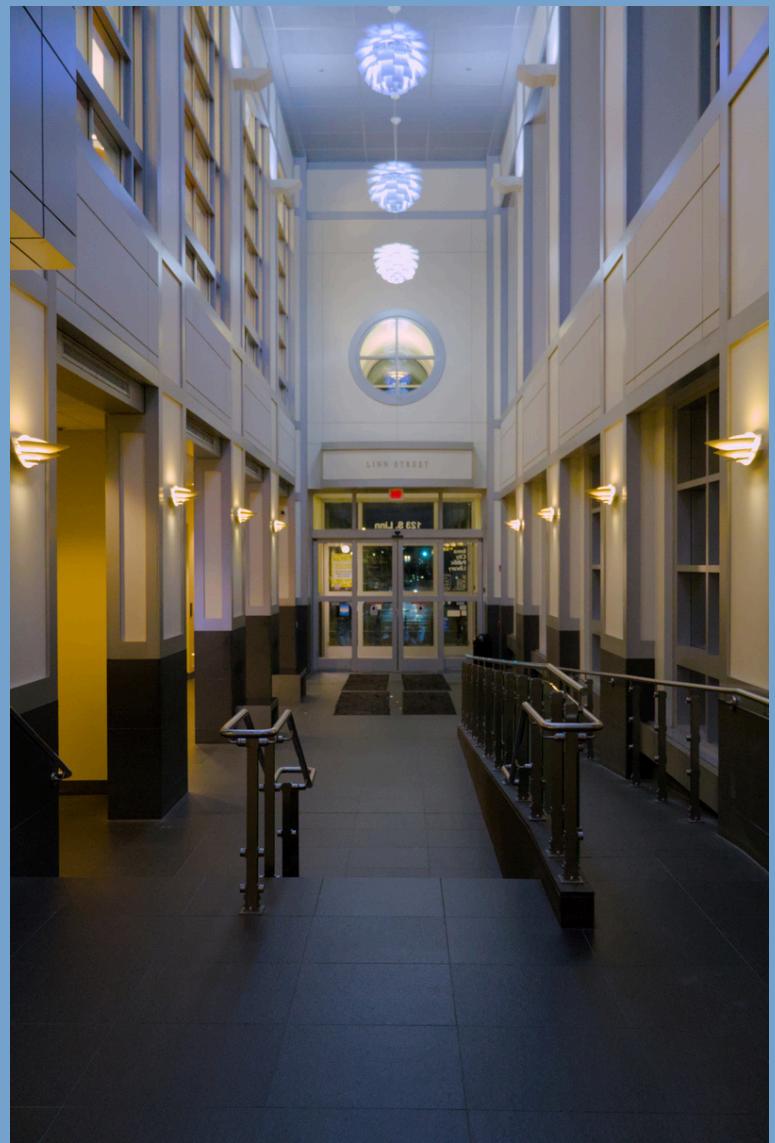
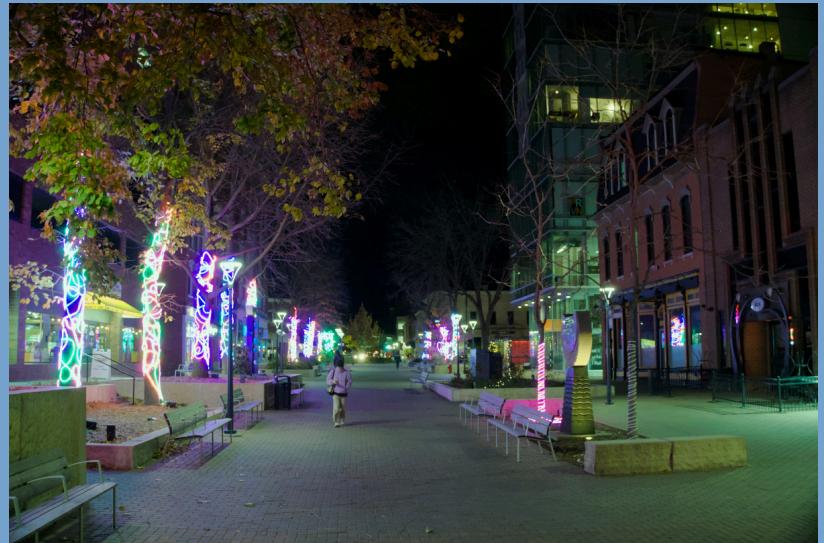
Joe Starr gave a talk at the 50th edition of the 'Knots in Washington' conference in Washington this December.



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Here are a few of Shashank's recent captures.





GRADUATE LIFE

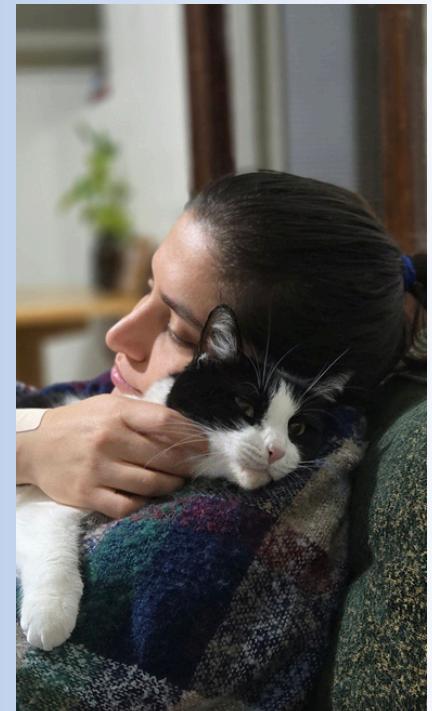


Paria and
Fatemeh were
grateful for the
fall weather.

Here's a winter
sunset through
Nandita's
balcony.



Here's
Fatemeh
capturing
the best
picture
Paria and
Delbar.



INDIAN MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS

We asked the Indian grad students in the department about pieces of Indian media content (movies or series) they'd recommend. If you're looking to dive into the culture, here's your starting point!

- When Nikita is looking for motivation in life, she watches **Jab We Met** and then **Chak De India**, which are great feel-good films.
- For TV shows, Ashwin and Nikita both recommend **Panchayat** on Amazon Prime.
- Soumika recommends the Bollywood classic **Kuch Kuch Hota Hai**, as well as **Gupi Gayen Bagha Bayen**, a Bengali movie made by the legendary filmmaker Satyajit Roy.
- Nandita recommends **Virus** and **2018: Everyone is a Hero**, two Malayalam thrillers based on the Nippah outbreak and the devastating 2018 floods in Kerala.



- Sheetal and Mansimran are fans of the shows **Mirzapur** and **Rocket Boys**.
- Hemanth recommends the Telugu crime drama **Lucky Bhaskar**.
- Abdul Shabeer recommends the comedy drama **Nil Battey Sannata** and the Hindi folk horror film **Tumbbad**.

MATCH PERSON TO FACT

In true tradition, we will end this semester with a friendly competition. Given below is a list of fun facts submitted by your fellow graduate students, but the facts are matched incorrectly to their authors. Guess which fact matches which student and send your responses by email to nandita-nair@uiowa.edu by 4pm on Friday, December 20th. The person that guesses the most correct answers will be awarded handsomely (by grad student standards)!

FACT	STUDENT
On November 23rd, I competed in my first powerlifting meet in Marshalltown, IA. Had a great time and set a PR of 235kg (518lbs) on deadlifts.	Garrett Mason
I've broken my legs twice and I broke my cousin's arm once.	Bradley Duda
I built my first computer when I was 14.	Zachary Flood
My roommate for all 4 years in undergrad was Aaron Rodgers.	Samuel Holen
I once had anterograde amnesia.	Kitrick Fynaardt
Once I ate a piece of bread where I bit the crust and it split my tooth in half	Nandita Nair
My nose is scarred from a hand propeller mishap.	Cole Hengel
'I go road biking every weekend (at least during the warmer months)	Evelyn Smith
My town is famous for an event where everyone swears.	Alisson Serracin Morales
More people go to my school than there are people in the town the school is in.	Abdul Shabeer

PUZZLE AWAY

- COLE HENGEL

RAGE QUIT

“I swear, I’m gonna flip this table!”

“Calm down, or else.”

“Or else what?”

I	Y	C	A	M	O	L	Y	I	D
T	Y	M	M	U	K	S	R	R	D
M	S	I	Y	P	S	G	A	N	S
O	E	G	E	T	A	R	A	S	C
N	O	O	R	N	N	L	O	N	R
O	N	A	O	D	Y	G	I	T	A
B	A	T	T	D	E	S	H	I	P
O	M	E	N	M	U	T	C	B	B
L	O	A	D	I	Z	I	I	O	L
Y	C	C	E	C	A	Y	P	O	E

- AZUL
- BATTLESHIP
- CANDYLAND
- DIPLOMACY
- DOMINOES
- MONOPOLY
- PANDEMIC
- PICTIONARY
- RISK
- RUMMY
- SCRABBLE
- SORRY
- STRATEGO
- TABOO

For solutions or hints, contact Cole at cole-hengel@uiowa.edu. The MIT Puzzle Hunt 2025 will be held during January 17th to January 20th, 2025. If you would like to participate in solving some puzzles (casually or seriously) and be part of the team, email Cole or Nandita!

We'll add you to the Puzzling Discord!

AND NOW, THE MEMES



THE 20 YEAR OLD PROOVER

"Not to be pedantic, but could you make this more rigorous?"

Thinks knowing the definition of "homotopy" validates his parasitic existence

Writes 10 pages of LaTeX for every problem he's given, no matter how simple or trivial

Makes fun of engineers; in reality is wasting his life on useless, self-indulgent abstraction

"I hate theoretical computer science, it's so hand-wavey"

Tells himself he's appreciating the beauty of higher mathematics; is actually just driven by finding a socially respectable way of validating his enormous innate superiority complex

Calls < "the unique total order defined on RxR such that for all pairs (x,y) ..."

>filthy formalist

Won't study anything unless it has absolutely no applications whatsoever

Hasn't done an ounce of manual labor in his life

Thinks formalizing intuitions changes his epistemic justification for accepting them

CONFUSING COURSE CONTENT

ALGEBRA WORKSHOP TAs

UNDERGRAD MATH STUDENTS

When the math got

an abelian group measuring how much a certain property fails to hold

9 CONVERSATIONAL TRICKS TO MAKE PEOPLE THINK YOU:

satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations on every open subset

Holomorphic, my dude.

<p>EXCUSE ME, WHAT?</p> <p>LORD BIRTHDAY</p>	<p>INSTEAD OF SAYING THIS → SAY THIS COOL THING</p>	<p>OK That's meromorphic.</p> <p>Yes Holomorphic, my dude.</p> <p>No Is Cauchy's Theorem useful?</p> <p>I think so That's a simple pole if I ever saw one</p> <p>Do you play golf? Do you whack \mathbb{CP}^1 for fun?</p> <p>I feel sick I got my self an essential singularity.</p> <p>Call me Weierstrass and tickle a mouse!</p> <p>That's a good idea Maybe contour methods aren't the best idea.</p> <p>This job is killing me Let's grab lunch on Monday--Can ya integrate my contour on Monday?</p>
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When the time comes to evaluate the college courses at the end of the semester.