

## 2026 Report from Brown University

**Lead organizer:** Yifan Guo

**Co-organizers:**

Simone Tetu & Raluca Vlad (Graduate students)

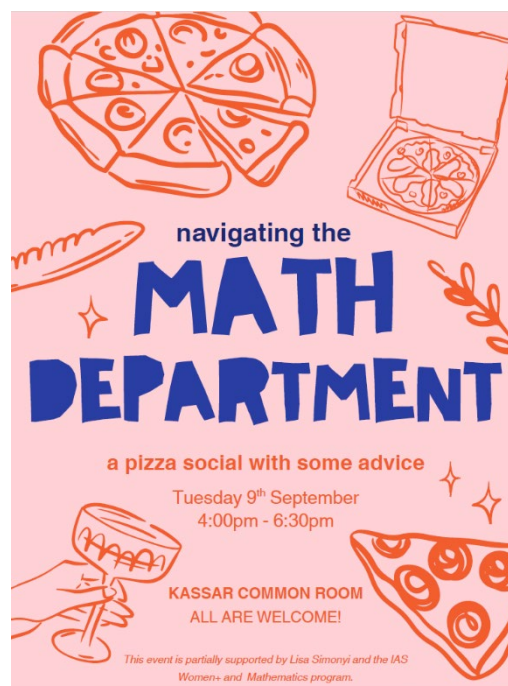
Nathan Smith, Grace Wang & Alice Wang (Math Departmental Undergraduate Group)

Chompoonek Nimitpornsooko & Lauren Roussel (AWM Chapter at Brown)

### Activities

The **Math Department Meet 'n' Greet** took place at the start of the fall semester on September 9, 2025. The event was designed for students interested in mathematics, especially freshmen, to get to know the different programs and groups available to them. Upperclassmen hosted a diverse range of information stations, providing peer-to-peer guidance on both navigating courses and exploring extracurricular opportunities. This event is co-organized with the Math Departmental Undergraduate Group.

The event was very successful, leading to many sign-ups for Directed Reading Programs, Association for Women in Mathematics Chapter at Brown, Summer Research program, Math Family Mentoring, and Math Circle.



"**Theorems & Tales**" is a series of six talks for undergraduate students, where they can hear about both interesting mathematics and inspiring stories from mathematicians at Brown. The first half of each session is an accessible math talk by a professor, postdoc, or advanced graduate student at Brown. This is then followed by a Q & A session with the speaker, during which students may ask the speaker questions regarding not only the math talk, but also the speaker's career trajectory and any advice they may have for undergraduate students in math. This event was run with help from Simone Tetu and Raluca Vlad, who are both graduate students at Brown.

**THEOREMS & TALES**

Hear cool math and stories from mathematicians at Brown

**Speaker:** Dr. Miriam Gordin  
**Title:** Concentration Inequalities and Random Walks

**When:** Thu 10/02 @ 12pm  
**Where:** Kassar 105

**Free Pizza!**

This event is partially supported by Lisa Simonyi and the IAS Women+ and Mathematics program

We are honored to have wonderful speakers presenting in a diverse range of areas:

- 10/02 Dr. Miriam Gordin  
 “Concentration inequalities and random walks”
- 10/23 Dr. Candace Bethea  
 “Down for the count – an introduction to enumerative geometry”
- 12/05 Prof. Carina Curto  
 “From string theory to theoretical neuroscience – trusting that the dots will connect via mathematics”
- 02/12 Prof. Isabel Vogt  
 “Interpolation problems for curves”
- 03/04 Prof. Caroline Klivans  
 “An introduction to chip-firing”
- 04/09 Prof. Mara Freilich  
 “Stability and instability in the earth system”

The event was exceptionally popular, maintaining an average attendance of over 30 students per session. Students’ feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many noting that the series provided a rare opportunity to connect with professors outside of a formal classroom setting. Several students even mentioned that they registered in specific math courses next year directly because a "Theorems & Tales" talk sparked a new interest in those areas of mathematics.

“**Sweet Connections**” is a recurring social event for undergraduate math students identifying as women+ to build community over afternoon tea. Origami materials, fruits, and cookies were provided to help create a relaxed environment where students felt comfortable discussing their shared experiences. The goal is to foster a lasting supportive network amongst math concentrators at Brown. This academic year, we hosted four sessions on Nov 4, Mar 2, Apr 6, and Apr 23, co-organizing with the Association for Women in Mathematics Chapter at Brown University.

The event was well-received, bringing together undergraduate math students across different years, which created an avenue for vertical mentoring.

The Association for Women in Mathematics Presents...

**Sweet Connections**

**Connect with Other Gender Minority Students in Math!**

Join us for tea, snacks, Insomnia cookies, and origami as we chat, meet, and greet with undergraduates in the math department

**Monday, April 6th**  
**4:30 - 5:30 pm**  
**Kassar House Common Room**

All concentrations and gender identities are welcome!

This event is partially sponsored by Lisa Simonyi and the IAS Women+ and Mathematics Program

## Funding

Here is a breakdown of spendings for the three activities above:

Event	Usage	Spending
<b>Meet 'n' Greet</b>	Pizzas	\$134.43
<b>Theorems &amp; Tales</b>	Pizzas	\$607.52
<b>Sweet Connections</b>	Origami material, fruits, tea, cookies	\$328.02
	<b>Total Spending:</b>	<b>\$1,069.97</b>

The main funding source was IAS WAM program and matched funding from the math department at Brown.

Source	Amount
<b>IAS WAM</b>	\$500
<b>Brown Math Department</b>	\$500

Additionally, the Brown Applied Math Department offered to fund two out of the six "Theorems & Tales" talks and the AWM Chapter at Brown helped partially pay for "Sweet Connections".

Source	Amount
<b>AWM Chapter at Brown</b>	\$144.68
<b>Brown Applied Math Department</b>	\$197.68

We summarize all spendings and funding in the table below.

<b>Main funding for the ambassadorship</b>	+ \$1000
<b>Additional fundings</b>	+ \$342.36
<b>Total Spending</b>	- \$1,069.97
<b>Leftover</b>	= \$272.39

## Acknowledgement

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the IAS Women and Mathematics program for the opportunity of this Graduate Ambassadorship to build an inclusive community for undergraduate math students at Brown University. We also extend our thanks to the Brown University Mathematics Department for matching this funding and providing essential logistical support throughout the academic year. We also thank the Applied Math Department and the AWM Chapter at Brown for their generous financial contributions. Finally, we are extremely grateful to the "Theorems & Tales" speakers for their time preparing such engaging talks and for their willingness to share their personal stories with our students.

## Participants

The following is a list of participants from this year's WAM Ambassadorship activities. Due to the high volume of attendance across events, this record is non-exhaustive and represents only a portion of the total student engagement.

- Thea Miller-Priddy
- Nina Maor
- Chompoonek Nimitpornsuko
- Nathan Zhong
- Luke Zhang
- Aida Abkenova
- Samuel Feenane-Levine
- Zach Bersky
- Jason Chen
- Joanne Ding
- Adelina Zheng
- Jackson Osterhus
- Sawyer Steinbave
- Taha Ebrahin
- Dhruv Jain
- Nicholas Cressman
- Samuel Peretz
- Haoyang Xu
- Aren Guralp
- Petrou Ghenos
- Rachael Yuan
- Victoria Porttaya
- Bryan Zhang
- Theodore Schwartz
- Tee Auttawetchakul
- Philip Yao
- Natsuka Hayashida
- Rhys Friedman
- Aavin Mangalmurti
- Zakhar Pysarevskyi
- Jeffery Gao
- Aly Rajwani
- Jasmine Sun
- Ella Wilson

- Nolan Mccloskey
- Michelle Jun
- Clemence Moullet
- Jack Bochar
- Carina Curto
- Georgia Beal
- Jonathan Xu
- Jayanth Mani
- Byron Zou
- Akir Sridharan
- Patrick Bai
- Divya Narayanan
- Raluca Vlad
- Nathan Smith
- Alice Wang
- Jerry Sun
- Ari Wang
- Yifan Guo
- Maxwell Zhang
- Lauren Roussel
- Shivam Kogar
- Simone Tetu