

Graduate Ambassadorship Report

Lead Organizer: Raluca Vlad (Brown University)

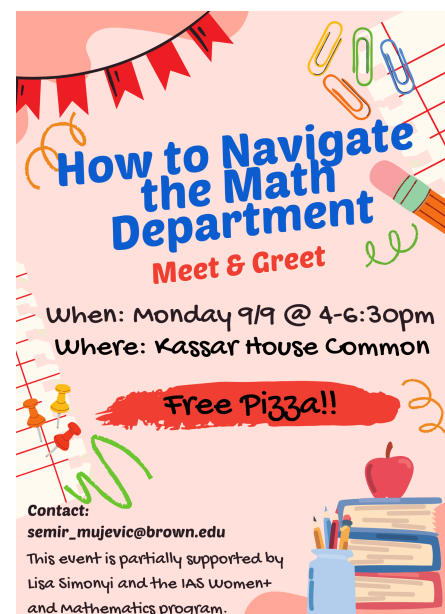
Co-organizer for Fall 2024: Semir Mujevic (President of the Math Departmental Undergraduate Group, Brown University)

Throughout the academic year 2024-25, we organized the following series of events aimed at connecting undergraduate students to the math department and creating a safe and inclusive environment for math concentrators.

1. “How to navigate the math department” Meet-and-Greet Event

This meet-and-greet event was organized at the beginning of the Fall semester and it allowed all math concentrators to socialize with their peers. It also offered younger (prospective) math concentrators the opportunity to ask older math concentrators for advice about which classes to take and other opportunities in the department. It was also a chance for the department to advertise resources available throughout the academic year (like the Directed Reading Program, the Math Resource Center, or the Math Family Lunches).

The event was very well-attended and resulted in a record number of sign-ups to the Directed Reading Program and the Math Family Lunches program.



2. “Monthly Math Meetings” Seminar

We organized a series of math talks, where we invited a faculty member from our department to give an accessible and fun math talk about their field to math concentrators. This seminar was a great opportunity for math concentrators to meet a member of the department whom they may not otherwise have an opportunity to interact with. These talks also gave math concentrators a glimpse into a diverse array of math research topics.

Women+ and Mathematics

We had three “Monthly Math Meetings” and the speakers were Sarah Brauner, Melody Chan, and Tainara Gobetti Borges.



3. Math Panel

We also organized a panel where participants got candid about their experiences in math. Panelists included undergraduate and graduate students from our department. The panel focused on belonging and inclusion in math. Topics included: personal road to mathematics, how to overcome challenges/obstacles (with an emphasis on challenges unique to gender or racial minority mathematicians), and dealing with work/life balance and mental health.

The panel was well-attended and the participants engaged well with the questions/discussion. Many participants were younger undergraduate students considering math as a concentration and they asked many questions about common hardship and struggles in math. We thought this event was quite successful and we believe we have swayed at least a few of the participants towards picking math as a concentration.



4. Finals Period Study Break

Finally, we organized a study break to help undergraduate students get through the stress of finals at the end of the Spring semester. For a couple nights at the end of April, we turned the common room of the Math Department into a safe space where math concentrators could relax, socialize, and practice self-care. We had snacks, board games, and hydrating face masks.



Budget:

We have used up all the funds from the W+AM Ambassadorship (\$500) and approx. \$350 from the funds that the department matched. A small sum (\$28) was used to purchase face masks for the Study Break event. The rest of the budget was used to purchase food for all the events mentioned above.