

# Countable Bits

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## Letter from the Co-Chairs

In a year full of challenges, our faculty and students continue to excel. This year we successfully completed our departmental external review, we hired two Visiting Assistant Professors and hosted the 2026 *Robert's Lecture* organized by **Cory Scott** and **Chris Mohan** (Physics) and featuring Dr. Rithya Kunnawalkam Elayavalli (Vanderbilt University). Our students participated in REU summer programs and in the Budapest Semesters in Math and CS. The work of our faculty was recognized by the CC community. **Beth Malmskog** received the *David and Lucile Packard Professorship*; **Molly Moran** received the *Robert C. Fox Endowed Professorship*; **Cory Scott** received the *2026 Dean of the Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award*; **Mike Siddoway** was honored with the *Excellence in Community Engaged Teaching Award*; and **David Brown** is the current *Thomas M. McKee Professorship in the Natural Sciences*. Our faculty was also recognized by the scientific community at large. **Rebecca Garcia** was named a Fellow of the Association of Women in Mathematics in 2026; **Blake Jackson** was featured in the Human Robot Interaction Podcast in 2025; **Varsha Koushik** served as local chair of ASSETS 2025; **Beth Malmskog** delivered an MAA Invited Address at the 2025 MathFest; **Molly Moran** was the principal organizer of the Undergraduate Research Poster Session at the 2026; **Luis Garcia Puentes, Ben Nye** and their collaborators at Clemson University received the NSF grant "*AIMing: Interactive Conjecture Proving*"; and **Varsha Koushik's** proposal, "*Collaborative Customized Daily Activity Prompting for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*" was recommended for funding by the NSF.

## MCURE



2026 MCURE team  
(from left): Ben, Eddie,  
Beth, and Molly

Our department received a generous donation from the Presidential Gift Fund to run the Mathematical and Computational Undergraduate Research Experience (MCURE) at Colorado College for the next three summers. MCURE will provide students from CC and the greater Rocky Mountain region with an intensive, collaborative research experience with faculty from diverse backgrounds. MCURE participants together with other CC students will also engage in professional development activities and community building. Nine students will participate in the first summer experience in 2026 led by research directors Beth Malmskog, Ben Nye, and Eddie Price. The research cohort will examine the ways in which mathematical and computational methods may be used to study questions of fairness and

representation in voting and democracy.

Rebecca Garcia and Molly Moran, who submitted the proposal with great help from Tess Powers and many departmental colleagues, are thrilled to bring an REU-style research experience to CC and are grateful to all those who believed in this project and helped make it a reality. More to come in next year's newsletter about the pilot summer and the projects for summer 2027!

## Visit our Website:



## Graduating Majors, Colorado College 2026

### Computer Science:

Kalie Chang  
 Brooktie Frogge  
 Sam Lain  
 Erin Liedeker (Distinction)  
 Jevon Lipsey (Distinction)  
 Zahara Love  
 Owen McGann  
 Meridian Mensch  
 Oliver Moscow  
 Evelyn Needham (Winter '25)  
 Serena Nguyen  
 Francisco Ortega  
 Harris Proctor (Distinction)  
 Oliver Ramirez (Winter '25)  
 Dax Sherwood  
 Noe Shoor (Distinction)  
 Ronan Takizawa (Winter '25)  
 James Treadwell  
 Yousef Sengal (Distinction)  
 Leigh Walden (Winter '25)  
 Nate Watson (Distinction)

### Mathematics:

Alex Aronie  
 William Brice  
 Abby Burnham  
 Leo Gordon  
 Dakota Hinman (Distinction)  
 Oliver Keeley  
 Rafiul Khan  
 Stephen Menetrez  
 Iván Morales  
 Katie Smela (Distinction)  
 Cooper Tull (Winter '25)

### Mathematical Economics:

Cole Amaya  
 Scott Beames (Distinction)  
 Megan Burich (Distinction)  
 Sam Carr  
 T.C. Doran  
 Uma Ghimire  
 Meryl Goodwin  
 Liza Jonasz (Distinction)  
 Felix McCall  
 Robbie Repenning (Distinction)  
 Danielle Ryans  
 Emmet Shuman (Distinction)  
 Andrew Tan (Winter '25)  
 Wes Vorley  
 Cole Wagner  
 Rebecca Walters

## Creative Courses



CP341: Experience Design in Ubiquitous Computing

Math & CS Faculty continued to innovate in the classroom, teaching a wide variety of creative courses in the 2025-2026 school year. In Block 8 of 2025, Jane McDougall taught a topics course MA110 on *Geometry and 3D printing*. Also in Block 8 of 2025, Dr. Varsha Koushik's *CP341: Accessible User Interfaces* class worked on hands-on design projects, including a public exhibition at the Fine Arts Center. In Block 1's *CP341: Experience Design in Ubiquitous Computing*, Dr. Varsha Koushik and her students worked on multimodal prototypes for a social impact game they created, guided by human-centered design principles.

Dr. Rebecca Garcia taught a Block 5 *MA110 Mathematical Explorations: Resiliencia Maya: Saberes Ancestrales a través de Matemáticas, Ciencias* in Izamal, México as part of CC's Semester Away in Latin America. In Block 6, Dr. Cory Scott taught a *CP341: Generative Art* course which featured a field trip to Baca and a public exhibition of student artworks. Dr. Beth Malmskog introduced students to her area of research in an interdisciplinary Math+CS course *Topics in Mathematics: Error-Correcting Codes* in



CP341: Generative Art

Block 7. Dr. Andrea Bruder taught a half block course on *Air Quality*, co-taught with Jim Rosenthal '70, the inventor of the Corsi-Rosenthal box. The department also contributed heavily to the First Year Program, with FYP courses taught by Drs. Stefan Erickson, Blake Jackson, and Mike Siddoway: *CC120: Ethics of Mathematics and Technology*, *CC120: Robot Ethics*, and *CC103: Mathematics for Sustainability*.



MA110: Geometry and 3D printing

## Rawles Exam

The first Rawles Exam was administered in 1972. Honors are awarded to the top scorers in two divisions, "First-Year and Second Year Division," and "Junior and Senior Division." The prize money (\$100 for each top scorer) has been awarded over these five decades from the Thomas Post Rawles Fund endowed by CC mathematics professor Thomas Hood Rawles to honor his son, who died unexpectedly at a young age. This marks the 54<sup>th</sup> year of the Rawles Exam and the 54<sup>th</sup> edition of the competition. Many CC students have wrestled with these demanding problems over the past half-century and have benefitted from the challenges that always accompany thought-provoking questions. This year, seven students took on the six problems in Rawles Exam #54 from 1:00PM to 5:00PM on Tuesday, February 3rd. The competition was very tight, and every contestant exhibited skill and imagination. The top scorer in the First-Year and Second-Year Division is **Finn Braun** (39/60) and in the Junior and Senior Division is **Andrew Peng** (53/60). Congratulations to both and thanks to all who participated and grew mathematically from the experience! Every problem attempted enriches you mathematically. If you would like to see the Rawles Exam #54 problems and their solutions, please send an email request to Mike Siddoway (msiddoway@coloradocollege.edu).

## Fearless Friday Seminar

This year featured the usual variety of wonderful speakers for our Fearless Friday seminars. We had several visitors from Colorado: **Dr. Levi Heath**, a local visitor from UCCS, gave a talk about novel methods for neural network training. **Dr. Aaron Clauset**, Professor of Computer Science at CU Boulder and External Faculty at the Santa Fe Institute, gave a talk on how network effects impact scientists' productivity and prominence. **Dr. C. Estelle Smith** of Colorado School



Faculty and students participating during Laura Farré Rozada's talk.

of Mines gave a talk about using online systems to provide spiritual care. As always, the department was lucky to have an alum speaker visit us for Homecoming, **Sakhile Dlamini '12**, who discussed his career in cybersecurity and the future of the field. **Dr. Courtney Franzen** visited from CU Denver to talk about modelling person-power for defense applications. Also from CU Denver, **Dr. Juan Carlos Martínez Mori** discussed mathematical models for the allocation of public goods. **Dr. Nicole Xu** of CU Boulder spoke about her career as a bioroboticist and her work with autonomous computer-controlled jellyfish robots. **Dr. Rob McConkey** of CSU Pueblo walked us through the construction of the theta invariant for knots. We also had visitors from further afield. **Dr. Della Dumbaugh**, faculty at University of Richmond and former editor of the *American Mathematical Monthly*, spoke about the history of the journal. **Dr. Lauren Milne** gave a talk about making computer science accessible.

Several talks this year featured audience participation: **Dr. Shelby Stanhope** visited from the Air Force Academy to show us new hands-on activities for multivariate calculus. **Fran Herr** demonstrated knot invariants with topological crochet. **Dr. Laura Farré Rozada** gave a talk about mathematical patterns in music, during which the audience played along.

Other departmental speakers included **Dr. Jasmine Bhullar**, **Olivia del Guercio**, and **Dr. Bruce Olberding**. In addition to all of our distinguished guests, we were lucky enough to have several talks by our departmental faculty: **Dr. Stefan Erikson**, who gave a talk about post-quantum cryptograph and codebreaking; **Dr. Cory Scott**, who spoke about infinitely large graphs; and **Dr. Beth Malmskog** gave a talk about error correcting codes. One of our blockly visitors, **Dr. Paul Zeitz**, gave a talk about random walks and Scrabble. We look forward to another year of fascinating talks in 2026-2027!



Fran Herr and several crocheted topological surfaces

## Mathematical Contest in Modeling

Over 20,000 teams worldwide participate in the Mathematical Contest in Modeling each year. This year, a Colorado College team, **Jojo Xie** and **Ze Xu**, successfully completed the contest, tackling a problem on how post-secondary institutions can best prepare graduates in the era of generative AI.

## Departmental Awards



The **Steven Janke Prize** is awarded to a senior who demonstrates unusual talent and achievement in computer science. The award is shared this year by **Erin Liedeker** (above) and **Jevon Lipsey** (below). Erin plans to take a gap year before starting her career, during which she will teach English in Spain or live in NYC! Meanwhile, Jevon will be attending Colorado School of Mines this fall to pursue his doctorate in Human Robot Interaction. He will join Tom Williams and the MIRRORLab, focusing on robotics ethics and inclusive design.



## Departmental Awards



The [Grace Hopper Award](#) is given to a senior who demonstrates an unusual commitment to the CS community. This year the award is shared by **Erin Liedeker** (previous page) and **Harris Proctor** (above). This summer, Harris will continue his research on AI for mathematical discovery here at Colorado College. Following that, he intends to pursue further research in other areas of machine learning.

### Fearless Award

The [Fearless Award](#) goes to the senior who has demonstrated the strongest engagement by attending many talks and producing excellent summaries or other artifacts. This year's winner is **Yousef Sengal** (below). Yousef plans to take a gap year focused on working and traveling, with the goal of gaining real-world experience and broadening his perspective.



## Homecoming Speaker

**Sakhile Dlamini** was this year's homecoming speaker in celebration of twenty years of Computer Science program at CC. After graduating from CC, Sakhile began his career as a full-stack engineer at Google and continued his education at UC Berkeley School of Information, obtaining his MS in Information and Cybersecurity. He currently works as a Security Software Engineer at Google Work Enterprise. For his homecoming presentation, Sakhile shared insights into how secure digital identity evolved, the current implementation of passkey security, and a sense of what makes systems vulnerable.



From left: Marlow Anderson, Steven Janke, and Sakhile Dlamini '12.

## Putnam Competition

The William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition (the Putnam) is the preeminent mathematics competition for undergraduate college students in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. This year, there were 4335 participants from 488 institutions, including four CC students: **Finn Braun**, **Sonia Gutierrez**, **Filip Maleev**, and **Benn Wheeler** who prepared under the guidance of Jane McDougall. Nationally, the mode score was 0 as usual, but Finn received a score of 20 placing him in the top 18% and Sonia received a score of 12 placing her in the top 26%. Congratulations to Finn, Sonia, Filip, and Benn.

## Pi Mu Epsilon

Pi Mu Epsilon is a national mathematics honor whose purpose is the promotion and recognition of scholarly activity in the mathematical sciences. This year, the Colorado Epsilon chapter induction ceremony took place May 1, 2026, with Professor Mike Siddoway (Colorado College) giving the invited address. Professor Siddoway was also officially inducted into the Colorado Epsilon Chapter.

Eight undergraduate students were inducted into the Colorado Epsilon chapter based on their interest and accomplishments in the field of mathematics. The new inductees are **William Brice**, **Maggie Davis**, **Rafiul Khan**, **Li An Li**, **Serena Nguyen**, **Andrew Peng**, **Katherine Rodbell**, and **Cheyen Sundell-Turner**. Congratulations to the new members of PME's Colorado Epsilon Chapter!



From left: Beth, Mike, Li An, Andrew, Cheyan, William, Serena, and Molly.

## Teaching at the YOS Prison

Mike Siddoway taught a twelve-week *College Algebra* course at the YOS Prison in Pueblo in the Fall of 2025. The YOS Prison is for "youthful offenders," roughly aged 18 to 28. The algebra course is part of a three-course collection (College Algebra, College Writing and Liberal Arts Discussion Course) that students can complete to fulfill their general education requirements at any 2-year college in Colorado. Mike began teaching the math component of the program in 2017 and has been a regular contributor since then. CC's "Liberal Arts in Correctional Facilities" initiative was begun in 2017 by CC History Professor, Carol Neel, in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Corrections, Pueblo Community College and CC.

## Math Club

The Math Club had another successful year of events this year. Many thanks to our co-chairs, **Maggie Davis** and **Sonia Gutierrez**, for all their hard work in planning and executing so many fun community building events. We had two big events this year. In the Fall, students across campus tried to escape the haunted math classrooms in the annual math escape room. In the Spring, the jointly sponsored Math Club and Departmental annual pi day event was bigger and better than ever! The event began with a snowy pi-k run (the one day we had snow all spring!), followed by tie dying t-shirts, led by Professor Ben Nye, lots of pie eating, and concluding with a pie-a-professor/paraprofessional event!

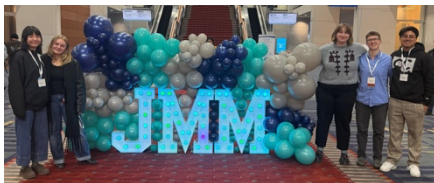


Maggie Davis on Pi day

Other events throughout the year included mathematical games, a post Rawles problem solving session, a problem-solving workshop with block visitor, Paul Zetiz, and SET tournament to end the year in Block 8.

## Joint Mathematics Meetings

The Joint Mathematics Meeting was held in Washington, D.C. in January 2026. We had a strong CC undergraduate presence at conference this year. **Alex Aronie '26**, **Abigail Burnham '26**, **Christian Figueroa '27**, **Dakota Hinman '26**, **Harris Proctor '26**, and **Katie Smela '26** all presented on their senior thesis work and/or summer research. Current paraprofessional **Zoe Harrington '25** presented on her senior thesis in the undergraduate contributed paper session as well. A small CC reunion dinner brought together current CC students in attendance, Professor Molly Moran and CC



From left: Dakota, Katie, Zoe, Abby, and Christian

alums **Sophie Aiken '19** and **Edgar Santos Vega '20**. It was a great evening to catch up and see familiar faces!

## Pikes Peak Regional Undergrad Math Conference

Colorado College hosted the Pikes Peak Regional Undergraduate Mathematics Conference (PPRUMC) on February 21, 2026. Professors Ike Agbanusi, Stefan Erickson, and Molly Moran co-organized the annual event which drew over ninety participants from fifteen different schools in the Pikes Peak region. The keynote lecture was delivered distinguished CC professor, Dr. Beth Malmskog, and highlighted her work on error correcting codes. There were also five excellent contributed talks given by CC students Christian Figueroa, Leo Gordon, Rafiul Khan, Nora Nelson Laird and Katherine Rodbell, and Andrew Peng. The event concluded with a panel discussion on what one can do with a mathematics degree.



Four CC math alums attended the event to discuss life after CC. Bob Kuo '18 discussed his experiences in graduate school. Bob is finishing up his Ph.D. this year at the University of Colorado Boulder (congrats, Bob!). Tiia Shea '24 talked about her first year of teaching at Mesa Ridge High School. Finally, Ella Lippelman '25 and Obie Kahne '24 talked about their work in data analytics at Analytic Partners (Boulder, CO) and Ascent Analytics (Denver, CO).

## Departmental Awards



The **Florian Cajori Prize** is awarded to a senior who demonstrates unusual talent and achievement in mathematics. The award is shared this year by **Abby Burnham** (above) and **Katie Smela** (below). Abby is enrolled at CU Boulder in the CU Teach MA+ Teacher Licensure in Math program. Katie plans to secure a role in quantitative trading or climate modeling and potentially pursue a graduate degree in applied mathematics.



The **Sophie Germain Award** is given to a student of mathematics who demonstrates an unusual commitment to the math community. This year's recipient is **Oliver Keeley**. Oliver is moving to Boston to work at Longpoint Partners, a Private Equity Real Estate firm.



## 2026 Euclid Scholars

The [Euclid Scholarship](#) recognizes outstanding potential and passion for mathematics, statistics, and computer science among first- and second-year students. This year, 89 students were invited to apply, and 17 scholarships were awarded thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends. We look forward to seeing these talented students continue to grow!

### First Year Students:

Nahom Abateneh  
Olivia Belli  
Finn Braun  
Cabell Cunningham  
Beckham Dempsey  
Qicheng Jiang  
Sequoia Miller



### Second Year Students:

Guodao Cen  
Eve Cunneen  
Carolina Ferrer  
Stephen Kim  
Tessa Olsen  
Elio Pietranico  
Alexa Rossi  
Drew Smith  
Mara Vogen  
Yuji Zhang



## Baca Research Retreat

Our faculty continued our annual Baca research retreat between May 19-23, 2025. Progress was made on an ongoing project about gerrymandering, led by Beth Malmskog and joined by Eddie Price, Molly Moran, and Ben Nye. A group including Flavia Sancier-Barbosa, Minh Kim, and Ike Agbanusi focused on projects involving missing data and analysis with a paper currently under review. Rebecca Garcia and Stefan Erickson started a new project on the wild numbers of graphs. Danielle Ellsworth, Joseph Rennie, and Luis Garcia Puente worked on independent projects. We're looking forward to our next retreat May 25-29, 2026!



## Undergraduate Research

In Summer 2025, many students collaborated with departmental faculty on original research projects:

- **Katie Smela** worked with Dr. Brown to model chemical communication between bacteria using stochastic differential equations.
- **Eowyn Poplawski** worked with Dr. Brown on a model of infectious disease spread in a network of loosely connected small communities.
- **Brooktie Frogge** worked with Dr. Burge on ReCap, a project to retrieve meeting data.
- **Madeleine Johnson** worked with Dr. Ellsworth on LibAudacious.
- **Dakota Hinman** worked with Dr. Erickson on the modular restrictions and quadratic form associations with generalized Apollonian circle packings.
- **Stephen Menetrez** and Dr. Garcia worked on enumerating and constructing Magic Franklin Circles.
- **Harris Proctor** and **Rafiul Khan** worked with Dr. Garcia Puente and Dr. Nye on an NSF-funded project to develop AI-based tools to assist mathematicians with research-level work.
- **Yousef Sengal** and **Owen McGann** worked with Dr. Jackson on a project examining how humans perceive gendered behavior in robots.
- **Zahara Love** and **Sam Lain** worked with Dr. Koushik on making physical computing tools more accessible for people with cognitive disabilities.
- **Ivan Morales** worked with Dr. Kim to model the 23/24 European Champions League group-stage outcomes.
- **Katherine Rodbell**, **Nora Nelson Laird**, and **Iris Pixler** worked with Dr. Malmskog to model what ranked-choice votes might look like if the Colorado state house used 13 multi-member districts.
- **Julia Snelling** worked with Dr. McDougall on matrix recurrence relations.
- **Wyatt Wellehan** and **Serena Nguyen** worked with Dr. McDougall on reflective properties of  $2F_1$  functions that generalize Schwarz Christoffel mappings onto polygons.
- **Abby Burnham** and **Christian Figueroa** worked with Dr. Moran on modeling solar flares with topological data analysis and studying how trip matrices are affected by Reidemeister moves.
- **Andrew Peng** and **Cassidy Recker** worked with Dr. Scott to model protein poses using signed distance functions.

## Alumni News



After graduating from CC in 2023 with a B.A. in Mathematics, **Timothy Somerset** began his Master of Philosophy in computational biology at Cambridge University. He had the opportunity to learn about various biological data modalities – including different genome-sequencing technologies and cell and diagnostic imaging (e.g., MRIs) – and the corresponding methods for processing and analyzing them. Tim said, “While much of this coursework wasn’t necessarily mathematical, I think having a foundation in mathematical thinking and statistics was a helpful first step to begin understanding the results and limitations in these datasets.”

After earning his master’s degree, Tim joined an early-stage cancer research lab at Cambridge University as a research assistant in clinical statistics and bioinformatics. He has been contributing to the group’s clinical trials testing their *sponge on a string*, a minimally invasive test for esophageal cancer, as well as other projects seeking molecular markers of early cancer and cancer progression. Tim shared, “The transition into life sciences has been challenging (who would’ve known the one biology course I took wouldn’t be enough!), and I’m still discovering where I’ll find work that best suits my skill set, but the relevance of our work to patient outcomes has nevertheless been immensely rewarding.”

Since graduating in May 2021, **Samuel Doggett** moved to Boston and now works as a Senior Software Engineer at SimpliSafe, a company focused on making home security simple and accessible. During his time at CC, he also worked as an iOS engineer at a small company called AwareX, his first professional experience building and maintaining mobile applications. In Sam’s words, “That role played a big part in preparing me for the transition into full-time engineering work after graduation.”



At SimpliSafe, Sam contributes to features that help keep customers safe in their homes. He created an active alarm experience designed to give users clear, critical information during high-stress moments, his first large-scale project as a professional engineer. Most recently, Sam led the effort to rewrite their Apple Watch app from scratch, enabling users to monitor and control their home security system directly from their wrist. While Sam’s background is in mobile development, he has started building backend services and has found a lot of fulfillment in mentoring other engineers and contributing to team growth.

Outside of work, Sam still maintains his personal app, [Wings Near Me](#), which helps fellow chicken wing enthusiasts find the best spots in their area. “It’s a fun way to stay connected to the creative side of coding that I first discovered at CC. I still think back fondly on Janet Burge’s CP274 Software Design course and the long hours spent implementing Battleship with Owen Miller, Wyatt Newhall, and Drew Shippey. We were so proud of our architecture at the time, and it’s been rewarding to see how those same design principles now underpin the work I do every day.”

### 2025-26 Paraprofessionals

We have been blessed to have two outstanding paraprofs this year, **Zoe Harrington** and **Izzy Wagenvoord**. They have done it all: running problem sessions, assigning graders, organizing departmental events, and being a mentor to our majors. Zoe was instrumental in bringing to campus Fran Herr, who gave a Fearless Friday workshop on crocheting surfaces bounded by knots. Next year, Izzy will be attending a post-baccalaureate program at Harvard University, and Zoe will be returning for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year as our math paraprof. We are so grateful for their service!



From left: Zoe and Izzy

### 2026-27 Paraprofessionals

We are incredibly happy to welcome our new paraprofs for the 2026-2027 academic year: **Serena Nguyen** (CS '26) and **Zoe Harrington** (Math '25).



From left: Serena and Zoe

## Sabbatical Plans

**Dr. Jane McDougall** (2<sup>nd</sup> picture on the right) will spend much of her 2026 – 27 sabbatical in Colorado. Jane received a Dean of the Faculty Summer Research Grant in Summer 2025, which supported her work with a collaborator in complex harmonic analysis, studying bounds on the harmonic Schwarzian derivative for harmonic mappings. Jane and her collaborator plan to continue this work at an upcoming conference in Bologna, Italy in June. Jane plans to continue work on this and other research projects begun with CC students and alums.



**Dr. Blake Jackson** is planning on using his sabbatical to wrap up some ongoing research projects, including philosophical work that interfaces with ideas in procreative ethics to explore the moral implications of gendering and racializing robots in certain ways and experimental work with student researchers investigating how the language that a robot uses to refer to itself might influence human mental models of that robot. Blake also plans to start exploring new multimodal and nontraditional ways of communicating engineering ethics research.

## Alumni News (cont.)



**Margaret Beck**, class of 2000, was inspired to become a mathematician by a paper she read for a linear algebra class with Steven Janke. The paper used a stage-based population model to identify the life-stage that most strongly impacted the overall survival of the loggerhead sea turtle population to argue that a certain type of fishing net, which the turtles were getting caught in during exactly that life stage, should be banned. After CC she went to Boston University, where she earned her PhD. She spent time as a postdoc in England, MSRI, and Brown University, and then returned to BU as faculty in 2009. She is now a Professor there.

Margaret was a Sloan fellow earlier in her career, and later received the AMS Birman award, and the SIAM J.D. Crawford Prize. She has fond memories of playing on the women's soccer team, and taking classes with Mike, Steven and Marlow during her undergraduate days. Margaret continues to publish in dynamical systems and PDEs, and has a further connection with Colorado College through Ike Agbanusi, who joined our department in 2019. As a graduate student at Boston University, Ike took a class with Margaret and also sat in with her on a PDE seminar. Margaret now lives in the Boston area, but you might well see her at conferences all around the world. We hope to arrange for a visit from Margaret in the not too distant future.



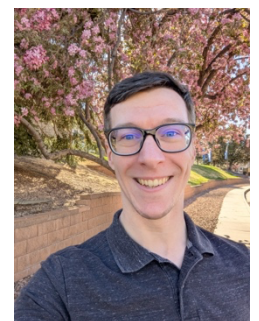
*From left: Alums Ben and Quinn, meeting with CC faculty Jane McDougall and Jasmine Bhullar during a conference in Boston in March.*

**Ben Rogers '10** is a Senior Biostatistician with Natera in the Boston area. After CC, he went on to UCLA where he earned his PhD in Biostatistics, and until a few years ago was a faculty member at the University of Massachusetts Amherst conducting research. Changes in funding practices at the CDC led him to his current job in industry. Ben enjoys living in the Boston area with his wife and two daughters. **Quinn Sebso '25** graduated in Computer Science and lives in the Boston area. Quinn is currently pursuing a master's degree in data science at Northeastern University.

## Farewell to Eddie Price!

For the past four years, Dr. Eddie Price was a Visiting Assistant Professor at Colorado College. Eddie's journey in mathematics began at Benedictine University. They received their Ph.D. from Purdue University in 2020. Eddie was a Visiting Assistant Professor at Grinnell College for two years, before joining our department.

At Colorado College, Eddie taught both statistics and mathematics courses, directed research projects, collaborated on research with our faculty, and contributed significantly on departmental service activities. In Fall 2026, Eddie will start a position as Assistant Professor of Practice at Purdue University, based in the Indianapolis location. Our students, and faculty will greatly miss them. Best of luck in all your future endeavors Eddie!



## Coding Club



First place team (from left): Owen McGann, Nate Watson, Erin Liedeker, and Oliver Moscow.

In Fall 2025, the Coding Club hosted CC's first interdisciplinary 24-hour hackathon, made possible by **Marcos Arnold '27**, **Ronan Takizawa '25**, **Maddy Spark '26**, and **Parthib Paul '28**, as well as Dr. Varsha Koushik and Emma Fairburn from the Career Center. Sponsored by the City of Colorado Springs, the hackathon focused on civic technology solutions, with over 20 participants and a \$400 grand prize.

In Spring 2026, the Coding Club hosted a career panel featuring tech industry professionals and CC alumni! Panelists shared insightful thoughts with students on applying their CS liberal arts education beyond CC and on navigating the current job market. The panel included former CS paraprof Lizzie Blaschke '24 (product owner at Cognizant), Giang Pham '23 (software engineer at Google), Mustafa Sameen '25, (PhD student focusing on AI and transportation at University of Florida), and Jeffrey Richter (Partner Software Architect at Microsoft).



## Building Community



Cheyann Sundell-Turner '27, Carolina Ferrer '28, Kate Bicks '26, and Dr. Rebecca Garcia play an intense game of SET at the tournament hosted by Math Club.

Our departmental staff, faculty, and students continue to foster a genuine and strong community through fun events and opportunities throughout the year. This year, we kicked off activities with an ice cream social! We then celebrated the seasonal holidays with cozy, Friday afternoon events full of tea, lots of laughs, festive snacks, prime number bingo, pumpkin painting, face paint, and of course – nail painting. Despite a very Colorado snowy afternoon, the Pi-Day Pi-K was a huge success this year! The hardworking leaders of Math Club, Sonia Gutierrez and Maggie Davis, made the cherished event happen with 17 different pies, freshly spray-

painted t-shirts that were ready to be tie-dyed, and a messy new tradition: Pi-a-Professor! The year concluded with the second annual Math Club hosted SET tournament, an activity-filled End of the Year Picnic for all, and the annual Senior Dinner to celebrate our graduating seniors. During mid-class intermissions, students continue to crowd the paraproffice with laughs, and doodles on the blockly poster.



Blake Jackson's FYP students playing with Ellewood in the paraproffice.

## Visiting Assistant Professors



Dr. **Jasmine Bhullar** is currently the Norbert Wiener Postdoctoral Fellow at Tufts University. Jasmine got her Ph.D. in Mathematics at the University of Houston in 2023. Her research focuses on Dynamical Systems, Ergodic Theory, and Thermodynamic Formalism. She is an MAA Project NEXt Fellow and a former mentor at the Spelman-Morehouse Directed Reading Program.



Dr. **Olivia Del Guercio** got her Ph.D. in Mathematics at Rice University in Spring 2026. Olivia's math journey began at Scripps College. Olivia's research focuses in Algebraic Geometry Codes. She was a mentor at the 2023 Practicum for Undergraduates in Number Theory; and a research mentor at the 2023 Pomona Research in Mathematics Experience.

**Academic Year 2025-2026****Department Faculty**

Ike Agbanusi  
 David Brown  
 Andrea Bruder (Assoc. Dean)  
 Janet Burge (Co-Chair)  
 Danielle Ellsworth  
 Stefan Erickson  
 Rebecca Garcia  
 Luis Garcia Puente (Co-Chair)  
 Blake Jackson  
 Minho Kim  
 Varsha Koushik  
 Beth Malmskog  
 Jane McDougall  
 Molly Moran  
 Ben Nye  
 Eddie Price  
 Flavia Sancier-Barbosa  
 Cory Scott  
 Mike Siddoway

**Department Staff**

*Academic Admin Assistant*  
 Marita Beckert

*Technical Director*

Bob Hendrich

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**Where are they now? 2025 Alumni**

**Luke Anderson** (Makse Group), **Jimmy Andrews** (BlueMatrix), **Yunus Bolat** (AlphaSights), **Talon Carballeira** (Summit Glen Gracious Retirement), **Esa Chen** (BS in CS at Columbia Univ.), **Nathaniel Curl** (Amazon), **Mira Giles-Pufahl** (Macrina Bakery), **Isaac Greenwald** (Copado), **Yael Homa** (Pre-med Post-bac at Columbia Univ.), **Primera Hour** (Home Depot), **Henry Howe** (RSM US LLP), **Walt Jones** (SRAM), **Shamdeed Kabir** (Bioinformatics Ph.D. at Univ. of Delaware), **Oliver Kendall** (The Island School), **Arez Khdir** (JumpCloud), **Abraham Lipson** (Kompato AI), **Grace Mun** (Estler Consulting LLC), **Kiernan Nessler** (FDM Group), **Willa Polman** (MS in Cybersecurity at CU Denver), **Karla Prado Padilla** (Greenfield Group Inc), **Dan Schmidt** (2025 Thomas J. Watson Fellow), **Stewart Sessions** (Veracode), **Kazu Shimotake** (Target), **George Sowles** (Pixability), **Kaylie Stuteville** (MS in Integrated Design at NYU), **Annu Vu** (Team Logic IT), **Izzy Wagenvoord** (Paraprof at CC), **Zach Zerbe** (Wayla)

**Ruben Alter** (PhD in Math at CSU), **Bayliss Baker** (Toad Property Mgmt.), **Porter Barnes** (Math Teaching Fellow at the School for Ethics and Global Leadership in London), **George Beck** (Amazon), **Zahra Cheeseman** (VAR Systems Operator at Hawk-Eye Innovations), **Will Cohen** (Assistant Men's Basketball Coach at Southwestern Univ.), **Tanner Flagg** (Analyst at Stifel Financial Corp), **Zoe Harrington** (Paraprof at CC), **Ella Lippleman** (Marketing Science Analyst at Analytic Partners), **Aiden Little** (J.D. candidate at Emory Univ. School of Law), **Hunter Markowich** (MA student in Geology at USF), **Mustafa Sameen** (PhD in Civil and Coastal Engineering at the Univ. of Florida), **Jacob Tow** (Exponent Fellow at the National Museum of Mathematics), **Iverson Wang** (PhD in Math at the UC Boulder), **Conor Wellman** (Software Engineer at bet365)

Are you a 2025 graduate missing from our list? Please contact us, we would love to hear from you!

**Block Visitors**

As usual, we have been lucky to have several block visitors in our department this year. **Ken Riddle**, former professor at Pikes Peak State College, taught several sections of Computational Thinking. Retired statistician **Rob Gordon** also returned to teach Probability and Statistics. **Nguyen Nguyen**, who was a Visiting Assistant Professor in our department, taught Calculus 1. We were fortunate to have **Paul Zeitz**, retired professor from University of San Francisco, return to teach Discrete Mathematics and share his joy of problem solving with our students. Our department is enriched by their presence!

**Thank You Graders and QRC Tutors!**

We appreciate all their hard work! A special thanks to all our graduating graders: Alex Aronie, William Brice, Abby Burnham, Owen McGann, Yousef Sengal, Dakota Hinman, Erin Liedeker, Jevon Lipsey, Zahara Love, Serena Nguyen, Cass Recker, Noe Shoor, Katie Smela, and Nate Watson.

And to the students who support their peers block-after-block – the graduating QRC tutors! This list includes Abby Burnham, Dakota Hinman, Erin Liedeker, Harris Proctor, Samuel Lain, Serena Nguyen, William Brice, and Zahara Love.