

# Loyola University Chicago Mathematics and Statistics Summer Newsletter, 2026

Hello Loyola Math and Stats folks!

It has been another excellent year – not exactly an easy year, the world of higher ed (and the world more generally) is changing quickly and there are challenges, Loyola is not immune. But this letter is to celebrate the great things that have happened, and there are a lot of them, starting with a record graduating class of amazing students! Enjoy!

## Congratulations 2026 grads!

Here are pictures of some people after the ceremony. Gathering people together is hard so many are missing, but it was a wonderful ceremony, and a wonderful group. Please keep in touch, we look forward to hearing about the amazing things you do next!



**Awards and Other Great Things.** Here are some recognitions our faculty and students received this year. If I missed anything important, please let me know!

**Swarnali Banerjee** won the College of Arts and Sciences Sujack Family Teaching Excellence Award. This is the most prestigious teaching award in the college. Congratulations Swarnali!



**Kejin Wu** won an Institute of Mathematical Sciences New Researcher Travel Award.



**Greg Matthews** received an American Statistical Association, Section on Statistics in Sports, Significant Contributor Award



**Carmen Rovi** received a *Culturally Aware Mentoring for Undergraduate Research Faculty Fellowship* from the Center for Engaged Learning, Teaching, and Scholarship (CELTS).



**Tim O'Brien** received a *Fulbright Senior Specialist Award* to work as a Visiting Professor at the University of Phayao in Thailand in December 2025-January 2026.



**Maggie Gonzalez** won the President's Medallion. This is one of the highest honors a graduating student can earn at Loyola, and very well deserved. You can read more about Maggie and the other winners at <https://www.luc.edu/presidents-medallion/2026/>.



Finally, here are our 2026 departmental award winners:

*Driscoll Award:* **Carmen Nguyen**

*Gerst Award:* **Annalise Brown**

*Mayer Award:* **Delaney Rager**

*Reisel Award:* **Will Bales**

*Rust Award:* **Maggie Gonzalez**

*Zajdel Award:* **Miguel Diaz**

*Chair's Award:* **Clara Branch and Tristan Parmerlee**

*VandeVelde Award:* **Jack Drummund and Jake Lee**

The picture has most of these folks.



### Summer 2026 Student Research

A huge group of our students are participating in research programs this summer!

- **Chiemela Ahachi:** Rataj Summer Research Fellowship with Dr. Wheeler
- **Clara Anderson:** Rataj Summer Research Fellowship with Dr. Gravina
- **Austin Audette:** College of Arts and Sciences USRE Fellowship with Dr. Petit
- **Cole Christophersen:** Rataj Summer Research Fellowship with Dr. Wheeler
- **Corbin Cox Anderson:** Rataj Summer Research Fellowship with Dr. Tingley
- **Alishba Basit:** Rataj Summer Research Fellowship with Dr. Gravina
- **Jack Dumanski:** College of Arts and Sciences USRE Fellowship with Dr. Whalen
- **Lia Goldmeier:** College of Arts and Sciences USRE Fellowship with Dr. Wu
- **Jaime Herrera:** Provost Fellowship and Mulcahy Fellowship with Dr. Rovi

- **Arman Kamal:** College of Arts and Sciences USRE Fellowship with Dr. Gravina
- **Janani Kamalakkannan:** College of Arts and Sciences USRE Fellowship with Dr. Wan
- **Lauren Lai:** College of Arts and Sciences USRE Fellowship with Dr. Wan
- **Jake Lee:** Carbon Fellowship with Xiang Wan (jointly with Dr. Debnath)
- **Yuliya Kim:** College of Arts and Sciences USRE Fellowship with Dr. Banerjee
- **Adrian McCall:** College of Arts and Sciences USRE Fellowship with Dr. Banerjee
- **Zach Moore:** College of Arts and Sciences USRE Fellowship with Dr. Wathodkar
- **Alexandria Miladinova-Genova:** Rataj Summer Research Fellowship with Dr. Lauve
- **Andrew Nasar:** College of Arts and Sciences USRE Fellowship with Dr. Tingley
- **Luke Nowlis:** CBCC Internship with Dr. Debnath and Mulcahy Fellowship with Dr. Wan
- **Kyle Parrella:** Provost Fellowship with Dr. Wu
- **Justin Peabody:** College of Arts and Sciences USRE Fellowship with Dr. Whalen
- **Tess Petrucci:** Rataj Summer Research Fellowship with Dr. Matthews
- **Anna Pham:** College of Arts and Sciences USRE Fellowship with Dr. Wheeler
- **Elian Robles:** College of Arts and Sciences USRE Fellowship with Dr. Wu
- **Izzy Uthe:** Rataj Summer Research Fellowship with Dr. O'Brien
- **Dominic Vancil:** College of Arts and Sciences USRE Fellowship with Dr. Lou
- **Deena Weil:** College of Arts and Sciences USRE Fellowship with Dr. Lou

Apologies to anyone I left off. Many students are also doing exciting internships, getting jobs, starting grad programs...great work all! Many students also present research in various venues, including 7 talks or posters at Loyola's Undergrad Research and Engagement symposium this past April.

### Events and Work in the Community

- **Undergrad colloquium series.** Once again, we had a great year, with amazing speakers!
  - **Sergio A. Carrillo Torres** (Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá): The root and ratio tests, Raabe's and Jamet's - what comes next?
  - **Jorge Jaramillo** (University of Chicago): Understanding working memory through a dynamical analysis of a neural circuit model
  - **Laurel Ohm** (University of Wisconsin-Madison): Dynamics of an elastic filament in 3D Stokes flow
  - **Dr. Mimi Dai** (University of Illinois Chicago): Constructive study for fluid equations
  - **Dr. Sree Bash Debnath** (Stritch School of Medicine, Loyola): Innovations in Radiation Detection and Dosimetry
  - **Justin Webster** (University of Maryland, Baltimore County): Stability and Periodicity in Linear Systems



We also continued the tradition of having some colloquia dedicated to short talks on student research. This year the student presenters were:

- **Will Bales:** Dynamic Bayesian Networks,
- **Ramsay Barlow:** Dynamic Latent Space Models for Global Migration
- **Avery Boland:** Quality Assessment in Deformable Image Registration
- **Delaney Rager:** A Modified Chaos Game Optimization Algorithm
- **Amanda Newton:** Using MOOSE for Crystal Plasticity Simulations of RMPEAs

- **Julia Williamson:** Sliding a convex set under a convex function

- **Career nights.** We held two career events this year, our Annual Applied Statistics and Data Science career fair, and a new Applied Math career night. Thank you Tim O'Brien and Xiang Wan for organizing! And especially thank you to our panelists:

**Math:** Adriana Cortes (Arrow International); Sam Hader (Light and wonder), Gary Moon (Capital One), Sean Rogers (Bluberi), Josef Sabuda (Fourier Data Consulting and Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago)

**Stats:** Anne Catrone (Marsh McLennan), Krystine Hoang (Naval Station Great Lakes), Julianne Heller (Crystal Equation), Dimi Dimitrova (Blue Cross Blue Shield), Paul Davies (Granger), Nam Nguyen (Penumbra)



- **Chicago Math teachers' circle.** The Chicago math teachers' circle ran 3 sessions at Loyola, working with groups of teachers from CPS and beyond. We also ran one session out of Haines Elementary School, and we plan to have a day-long summer institute this summer, for the first time in about 7 years. <https://mathcirclesofchicago.org/cmtc/>
- **Data Fest.** Data Fest was popular as always. This is led by Greg Matthews. See <https://www.luc.edu/datascience/events/datafest/>.



**Clubs.** The number of clubs in the department continues to grow! We now have:

- **Math and Stats club.** The math and stats club has been doing great things, as usual! Their volunteer tutoring continues to be popular. They also ran other great events, including co-sponsoring pi-day and running a games night - after which we had a math excursion to a basketball game.
- **Data Science club.** The data science club is still going strong! They ran weekly study/tutoring/hang out sessions in Loyola Hall and organized several speakers.

- **SIAM student chapter.** Our student chapter of SIAM (the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics) is doing great things! They went to a SIAM conference and took a trip to Fermi lab. They also took the lead in organizing the applied math career night.
  - **AWM.** Our student chapter of the Association of Women in Math started what I hope is a new tradition by organizing our own Julia Robinon Math festival event. It was a super fun event!
  - **Quantitative Trading club.** Several of our students were involved in the quantitative trading club, which met and held events throughout the year. I hear they did some great projects!
  - **Problem solving club.** Our problem-solving club is our newest student organization, having started this Spring. They met weekly all semester and solved (or failed to solve) lots of great problems!
- Here are some pictures, you can try to guess which goes with which club.



**Data Science Consulting Center.** As of summer 2023, we have a Data Science Consulting Center, led by Greg Matthews <[gmatthews1@luc.edu](mailto:gmatthews1@luc.edu)>. See <https://www.luc.edu/cdsc/>. Please get in touch with Greg if you have data-related projects the center could help with.

#### **Rataj Scholarships and related initiatives.**

Thanks to the generosity of our alum Greg Rataj, we have been able to establish the Rataj Scholarship fund and have been giving scholarships to two or three students a year over the past several years. See <https://www.luc.edu/math/scholarshipsopportunities/>. These funds also support a number of other great activities and initiatives:

- Our Undergraduate Colloquium talks
- Our travel funds for students (more information at <https://www.luc.edu/math/scholarshipsopportunities/>)
- Research fellowships (see undergrad research list above).

**Promotions.** We only had one promotion this year, but well deserved!

- **Stephen London:** Promoted to Teaching Associate Professor

**Comings and goings**

Several people left in the last year:

- **Evan Cole** left in spring 2026 to pursue other opportunities.
- **Bret Longman** left during summer 2026 to pursue other opportunities.
- **Matt Mills** left during summer 2026 to pursue other opportunities.
- **Aboubacar Sow** retired in summer 2026.

We unfortunately did not make any full-time hires this year.

For goings, we should also acknowledge that two of our programs are being sunset as part of Loyola's program Array review. All students currently in the programs will be able to continue, and we believe there are good options for students who may have been interested in these programs going forward – we have started several new programs in recent years, specifically Applied Math and Data Science, so there was perhaps a need to restructure.

The programs being sunset are:

- Actuarial Science minor
- Math and Computer Science BS.

The Mathematics – Education Track BS is also in the process of being sunset, although that was done a year ago for different reasons.

**Linkedin.** Our department does have a linkedin page ([Loyola Mathematics and Statistics Department](#)). Our department is overall not very active on social media, but we have been using this site a bit more, and we intend to keep doing so. Among other things, we sometimes post or re-post job opportunities, and in general use this site to keep in better touch with former students. Anyway, please connect!

That's all for now! Please keep in touch and drop by the department if you are around. And if you have any opportunities to pass on, please send them along and I will share.

Go Ramblers!

Peter Tingley

Chair, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Loyola University Chicago

P.S. If you want to make sure you get the newsletter next year, and you have not already done so, please join the department's alumni email list using this form:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=408fApwrJEiDeLvPnsWsyxOWMeTJo8dEkdFE5px60I5UQVg3REhWVFBRMEJDSIROMEhJRUIRSkw4NC4u>