

# Meet the Mathcamp Staff!

## **Adina Gamse**

*JC*

Cambridge. Andre is a year ahead of Tim. Tim is a year ahead of Yuri. Catherine is a sophomore.

- Mathematical interests: topology, stuff you can draw pictures of
- Hobbies: jewelery making, trampolining
- Fun Fact: I qualified as a trampoline coach this year.

## **Alison Miller**

*Mentor*

Just completed the Certificate of Advanced Study in Mathematics at Cambridge University, UK, incoming PhD student at Princeton

- Mathematical interests: algebraic number theory, algebraic geometry, algebraic combinatorics, algebraic anything, also connections between different areas of mathematics that might or might not be algebra
- Hobbies: fantasy/science fiction, games/puzzles, knitting, overcoming my innate klutziness (juggling, frisbee, bell-ringing, etc)
- Fun Fact: I enjoy climbing lots of stairs.

## **Andre Kuney**

*JC*

Oberlin College. Yuri would say that no JC is older than Tim. I am a year ahead of Don.

- Mathematical interests: Combinatorics, Math in Music Theory, History of Math
- Hobbies: Piano, singing, theater, Jeopardy!, French, playing ping-pong with a strange grip, lame jokes
- Fun Fact: I have a secret weakness for bad romantic comedies and reality shows.

## **Anne Kinne**

*Camp Nurse*

20 years as an RN

- Mathematical interests: Also known as half wit
- Hobbies: kids crafts, swimming
- Fun Fact: I have 2 girls age 6 and 13. My mother and grandfather were both high school teachers.

## **Ari Nieh**

*Ari*

Longy School of Music, 2nd year MM student

- Mathematical interests: quantum topology, arguing with Noah
- Hobbies: cooking, photography, comics, puzzles
- Fun Fact: I once injured my shoulder by sneezing.

## Catherine Sheard

*JC*

Yale. Most of the JCs are in the same year as me. Youlian and Don always tell the truth.

- Mathematical interests: Set theory, computational linguistics, mathematical biology
- Hobbies: Pandas, canoeing, cross-country skiing, archaic languages, really loud musical instruments
- Fun Fact: Last spring break I saw 424 different species of birds. I'm up to about 80 for this summer - help me find more!

## Dan Gulotta

*Mentor*

Princeton University, 2nd year PhD student

- Mathematical interests: string theory, number theory, combinatorial geometry
- Hobbies: computer programming, Ultimate Frisbee
- Fun Fact: I am vice president of the Princeton Graduate Mafia Brotherhood.

## Dave Savitt

*Deputy Director*

University of Arizona, Professor

- Mathematical interests: Number theory
- Hobbies: Scrabble, logic puzzles, crosswords, ball hockey, tennis
- Fun Fact: On my 18th birthday, I threw a piece of crab at the Premier of British Columbia.

## David Roe

*Mentor*

Harvard University, 4th year PhD student

- Mathematical interests: algebraic number theory, representation theory, algebraic topology
- Hobbies: hiking, board games, bridge, rafting, sailing, baking, berry-picking, listening to music, science fiction, roleplaying games, reading news online, traveling to awesome places
- Fun Fact: By the end of this summer I will hit 52 weeks at mathcamp.

## Don Laackman

*JC*

UChicago. If you asked me what year I was in, I would say I'm a freshman.

- Mathematical interests: Algebra, Category Theory, Recreational Mathematics
- Hobbies: Board Games, Card Games, Miscellaneous Games, Food, Puzzles, Books by Neal Stephenson
- Fun Fact: My mom is CFO of the White House.

## Gloria Krusemeyer

*Volunteer*

Stevens Institute of Technology, long ago

- Mathematical interests: symmetry of set dances
- Hobbies: dancing, bridge, beading, tilting at windmills
- Fun Fact: I went scuba diving off Brooklyn.

## JR Rosen

*Mentor*

University of Michigan, second-year graduate student

- Mathematical interests: My mathematical interests are varied, but currently, my research is in number theory
- Hobbies: Playing games (all sorts)
- Fun Fact: My favorite poem is Robert Browning's 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin'.

## Marisa Debowsky

*Ari*

Mathcamp Program Director, 2nd year!

- Mathematical interests: topological graph theory, other topics in combinatorics, cryptography, cute proofs
- Hobbies: compulsive note-taking and lining things up at right angles, drinking coffee, eating cupcakes, playing scrabble, seeing live acoustic music
- Fun Fact: When not at mathcamp, I live on the 42nd floor.

## Mark Krusemeyer

*Faculty*

Carleton College

- Mathematical interests: abstract algebra, combinatorics, number theory, problem solving
- Hobbies: recorder playing (and teaching), hiking and scrambling, bridge, table tennis, scrabble and other word games/puzzles
- Fun Fact: Once played sopranino recorder in a wind band with the President (of the U.S.) in attendance.

## Mathieu Guay-Paquet

*Mentor*

UWaterloo Combinatorics & Optimization, 2nd year PhD student

- Mathematical interests: algebraic combinatorics, symmetric functions, anything algebraic and/or discrete and/or algorithmic (and/or geometric);
- Hobbies: playing games of all kinds, messing with computers, biking, reading;
- Fun Fact: I have four first names and two last names, but no middle name.

## Mike Hall

*Mentor*

UCLA, 3rd Year Graduate Student

- Mathematical interests: Analysis, Partial Differential Equations
- Hobbies: Running, Ultimate, Surfing, Bridge, Devil's Sticks
- Fun Fact: I've never been surfing in the daytime.

## Mira Bernstein

*"Ze Top Banana"*

This year, during Mathcamp, I'm also working part-time on my "real" job at the National Bureau of Economic Research: a project to conduct the first ever randomized controlled trial of the effects of health insurance on the uninsured.)

- Mathematical interests: Information Theory, Bayesian Statistics
- Hobbies: Hiking, music, medieval Hebrew texts, running Mathcamp!
- Fun Fact: I have played the heaviest musical instrument in the world (the carillon at Riverside Church in New York City).

## **Nina White**

*Mentor*

University of Michigan, 4th year

- Mathematical interests: Low-dimensional topology, geometric group theory
- Hobbies: Riding my bike
- Fun Fact: I own a potato ricer and I know how to use it (Actually, I own two, but I've never personally used them both at the same time.).

## **Noah Snyder**

*AC*

Columbia, Postdoc

- Mathematical interests: skein theory in algebra and topology, finite groups, number theory before 1920, algebraic questions in subfactor theory, examples
- Hobbies: Puzzles, Ultimate Frisbee, Bughouse
- Fun Fact: Last year Abi (Mira's 6-year old daughter) and I won more games of bughouse against campers than we lost.

## **Shoe Shoemaker**

*Mentor*

University of Michigan, 2nd year PhD student

- Mathematical interests: algebraic topology, maybe some differential topology, combinatorics
- Hobbies: hiking, skiing, rock climbing, frisbee, and pretty much any other activity that involves being outside
- Fun Fact: Since summer started I've been in 10 states (and counting).

## Susan Durst

*Mentor*

Rutgers University, 2nd year PhD student

- Mathematical interests: noncommutative algebra, math logic
- Hobbies: board games, music, and social dancing (stuff like ballroom, swing, and salsa)
- Fun Fact: I have two little sisters and an older brother. We grew up on the west coast, but as of next year we'll all be in school on the east coast.

## Tim! Black

*JC*

Caltech. Yuri is older than me, I'm at least two years ahead of Don.

- Mathematical interests: game theory and probability, but it changes by the day
- Hobbies: math, volleyball, hiking, exploration, west coast swing dancing, board gamea, drinking milk
- Fun Fact: I've met every losing presidential candidate on the Democratic ticket since 1988 (and neither of the winners).

## Waffle Wofsey

*Mentor*

Harvard, 1st year graduate student

- Mathematical interests: algebraic topology, category theory, set theory, pointset topology
- Hobbies: math, eating blueberries, languages, linguistics, puzzles, board games, card games, being silly
- Fun Fact: The number of languages I speak is between 4 and 7 and is not an integer.



## **Youlian Simidjiyski**

*JC*

UChicago. Exactly one of Adina and Yuri is a liar. And I'm actually bald.

- Mathematical interests: Interests? Specialization? Bah, I'm an undergrad. Just give me the math!
- Hobbies: StarCraft, hiking, board games, coming up with events of questionable sanity.
- Fun Fact: Last week: Gained real-world cred by arriving at MC '09! Two weeks ago: Gained hiker cred by Climbing to the highest point in Colorado. Four weeks ago: Gained nerd cred by taking 18th place worldwide in Geometry Wars 2: Sequence.

## **Yuri Lin**

*JC*

MIT. At least  $1/8$  of the JCs are upperclassmen. Everyone older than me is honest.

- Mathematical interests: Math! (Well, specifically, linear algebra, analysis, group theory?) Also, computer science.
- Hobbies: Poking at computers, languages, musical things, shiny things, furry things, bouncy things
- Fun Fact: I've spent more time driving a 15-passenger van than any other vehicle.

## **Yvonne Lai**

*Faculty*

University of Michigan, post-doc

- Mathematical interests: Hyperbolic geometry, geometric group theory (my advisor would say "geometric geometry")
- Hobbies: Running, yoga, truffling chocolate, crystallising ginger, spelling things the Canadian way
- Fun Fact: First time at Mathcamp was as a student, a prime number of years ago.