

## Student Meet and Greet

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On Tuesday, January 29, the department held its semesterly meeting for Math majors. These meetings offer a chance for members of the department to meet each other and follow up on other's activities. The department provided a pizza lunch for the students, faculty, and staff who attended the meeting.

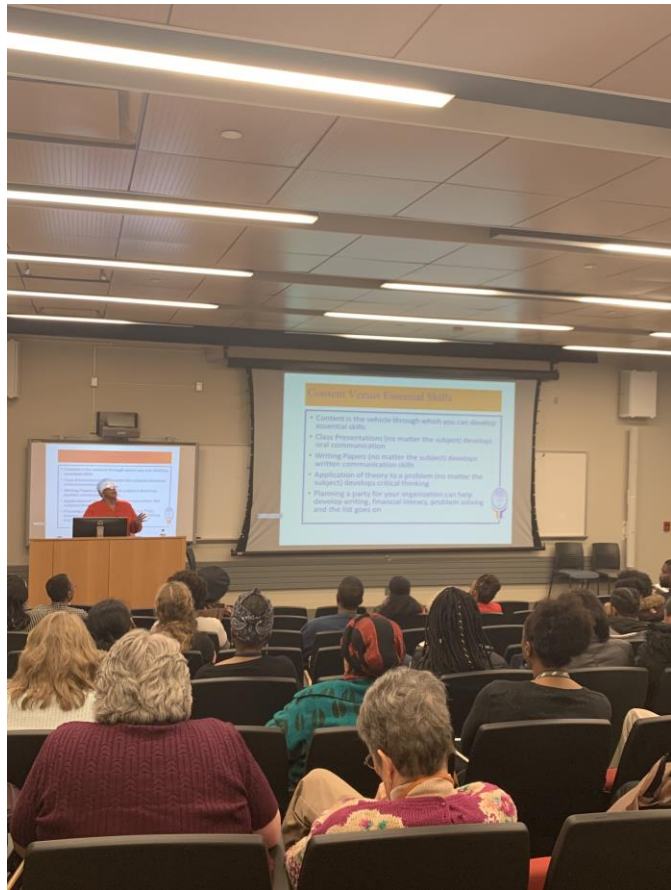
During the meeting, our math students discussed their current progress towards graduation, the challenges they still face, and the challenges they have already overcome. This allowed our students to receive support and advice from others in the department, including faculty and staff as well as the students' peers. Our graduating seniors also shared their success stories, along with their post-graduation plans. More about our graduating seniors' post-graduation plans will be included in a latter newsletter, at the end of the semester.



## President Allen Visits Our Department

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On Tuesday, January 22, President Allen met simultaneously with our department and the Department of Computer Science to discuss our roles in implementing the University's new strategic plan. A major focus of the meeting was the role of STEM in a liberal arts education. President Allen stressed the importance of highlighting the applicability of STEM fields to other disciplines in our increasingly interdisciplinary world. The fields of Mathematics and Computer Science are particularly ripe for such a discussion, as both our fields provide a wide range of technical tools that other disciplines rely on. Far too often students view a required Math course as a simple hurdle to overcome. We must strive to overcome this, so that students leave their Math courses with an understanding of *why* that course was required, and what they will do with the knowledge they gained.



President Allen also stressed the new administrative structure and its role in supporting our department, such as the Office of Undergraduate Research, which can provide support to students seeking co-curricular activities such as research positions and summer internships. The Office of Undergraduate Research will fund undergraduate research internships here on campus and will also organize symposiums for participants to present their work. We hope these opportunities will serve our students well.

### Department of Mathematical Sciences Faculty and Staff

Dr. Maiko Arichi  
Dr. Zachary Carson  
Dr. Panakkal Mathew  
Ms. Martha Parisan  
Dr. Laurellen Treisner

Prof. Abel Ayele  
Dr. Michael Faulkner  
Dr. Patrick Mwerinde  
Dr. Jawahar Pathak  
Dr. Penglong Xu

Dr. Tong Banh  
Dr. Moses Haimbodi  
Dr. Ranjan Naik  
Dr. Claude Tameze  
Dr. Vesna Zeljkovic