

# AMS GRADUATE STUDENT CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

The purpose of the American Mathematical Society Graduate Student Chapter is to help graduate students at GSU further their knowledge of mathematics, build a community, and advance their careers.



*Established in April 2014, currently has about 35 members.*

## GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

**President:** Aubrey Kemp  
**Vice President:** Darryl Chamberlain Jr.  
**Secretary:** Elizaveta Latash  
**Treasurer:** Adam Kellam  
**Webmaster:** Russell Jeter  
**Event Coordinator:** Faysal Satter

### **Details about your most recent Chapter meeting/event:**

We created an online CV Training on our website, where we provide tips and examples of CVs and encourage graduate students to send us their CVs so we can all have the opportunity to review one another's.

### **A success story or a time where things didn't go according to plan:**

Recently, we were planning on having an invited speaker who is also an alumnus of our program, and, unfortunately, he got sick the day before! Luckily our graduate students are flexible, and we rescheduled for the end of March.

### **What members enjoy most about the Chapter:**

Probably the pizza! Just kidding. I think they enjoy the various opportunities we provide to network within our department and the time we get to spend away from research and getting to know one another on a personal level.



## AUBREY KEMP

Chapter president, from Snellville, GA,  
attended Georgia College in Milledgeville, GA,  
for undergraduate degree.

### How did you become interested in mathematics?

I seemed to be naturally good at

it, and with time came to love it in high school. It was an automatic decision that it would be my major in college.

### Where do you see yourself in ten years?

I am anticipated to graduate next year and want to teach at a university. As I am applying for jobs, I hope to have the opportunity to move somewhere in the country outside Georgia and get to know a new place and new school! In ten years, I could still be at that university or have moved to another city!

### How has being the Student Chapter president assisted you with leadership training for your future?

Before being president of this chapter, I doubted myself in terms of belonging to the program. Once I had the opportunity to get to know others and work on my confidence with delegating tasks to board members, I really felt as though I appreciated my colleagues and fellow graduate students more, and I think they felt the same about me. It will help with confidence in the workplace in the future and having to adapt to new circumstances.

### What are your interests?

Academically, I research in Collegiate Mathematics Education. Specifically, how students come to understand certain challenging topics in college math courses. Outside school, I love hanging out with friends, running and exercising, and being outside.

### What is your strongest quality?

I think my strongest quality is making connections with people. At first I am a little shy, but once I start a

conversation, I always enjoy getting to know someone and their story, and I find that people appreciate that.

### Who or what motivates you to be a better person?

There are so many people in my program that motivate and challenge me academically to be the best student, teacher, and researcher I can be. Specifically, many of the board members of this chapter, other colleagues, and my advisor. I also have a wonderful family and friend group outside the school that support me in all that I do and only have words of encouragement for me. I think the biggest motivator I have is myself, though. Once I decide I want to do something, I don't let myself quit, although that thought crossed my mind when I was under a lot of stress a few years ago.

### What is the best advice you can give to someone pursuing a degree in mathematics?

Obviously, mathematics is an incredibly hard field to go into, but it is even harder to stay in and complete. My biggest advice is to know that things will get hard at some point and you may do worse than you expect at some point, but mathematics is all about the struggle. What matters the most is how to bounce back from the times that you are struggling. In fact, I believe the following quote I came across the other day (unknown author) summarizes it perfectly: "Good mathematics is not about how many answers you know, it's about how you behave when you don't know."

### What do you want to be remembered for?

I would love to be remembered as someone who brought people together and encouraged people to enjoy life, even if you are spending a lot of time researching, or studying, or anything else that may be time consuming. The most important thing in life is being able to do the things you enjoy doing (including mathematics).

To start your own AMS Graduate Student Chapter or for more information about the program, please email the Membership Department at [membership@ams.org](mailto:membership@ams.org).