

Fall 2020 MGSA Report

Oct 10 2020 - Feb 15 2021

Fall 2020 Committee Members: Adam Dhillon, Anya Michaelson, Izak Oltman, Pranav Trivedi*, Ronan O’Gorman*, Thomas Browning*, Yelena Mandelshtam

Below are the highlights of MGSA’s activity during the 2020-2021 Academic Year

- **Virtual Evans 1015**
 - Izak created a virtual Evans 1015 map in Gather.town supported by a subscription purchased by the department. While the space is always accessible to all, a calendar was created to keep track of “reservations” for planned events. Reservations can be requested by emailing MGSA, Isabel Seneca, or Jon Phillips.
 - The space was used by MGSA to host department teas and the holiday party. Events by Nring, MGSA, and others have also been held here.
- **Discord/Facebook**
 - The Virtual Grad Lounge discord server remains active and continues to be used for announcements, informal chat among grad students, and the Sunday tea.
 - The MGSA Facebook page was taken down owing to disuse.
- **Teas**
 - MGSA is hosting two weekly department teas in the virtual room 1015, on Tuesdays 5 - 6pm and Fridays 3 - 5pm. Undergraduates are invited to attend the Tuesday tea.
 - MGSA also hosts tea and browser games Sundays 3 - 5 on the MGSA discord server.
- **Subject Lunches**
 - The subject lunches for Fall 2020 were held on the week of 9/Nov/20 in Algebra/Algebraic geometry, Analysis, Applied Math, Combinatorics, Logic, Number Theory, Physics/Representation theory, and Topology/Geometry.
 - Lunches were hosted virtually on zoom. Unfortunately, there was no allowance for food.
- **Many Cheerful Facts**
 - Many Cheerful Facts continued on Zoom.
- **Holiday party**
 - MGSA hosted the Winter Holiday Party on 11/Dec/20 in a specially-decorated “1015”. We held a virtual pet show, talent show and raffle (gift cards bought by the department).
- **Peer advisor program**
 - MGSA launched a department peer mentoring program, matching all first years with an older graduate student with similar interests. The purpose of these mentoring pairs was to complement academic advising in the department, giving first years someone to ask about nuts and bolts of graduate life and help them make connections.
 - This year the program was especially important to facilitate introducing new students into the department during a virtual academic year.
- **Quals Databank**

* denotes new members

- In addition to the existing bank of old Quas Syllabi, MGSA, in coordination with Isabel and Jon, have created a systematic way to collect, store, and share a list of old Quas questions for future students to use.
- The data will be stored in the QE Resource folder and will be searchable by topic, committee member, etc.

* denotes new members