



MARIST
UNIVERSITY®

School of Computer Science
and Mathematics

2025 - 2026 Newsletter



Message from the Dean

Dean Ron Buckmire

“Welcome to the 2025-2026 Newsletter for the School of Computer Science and Mathematics. I’m excited to share some highlights of the past year from my perspective as Dean.

In August 2025, our School’s Cybersecurity program was recognized by the National Security Agency with the prestigious National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD) designation, thanks to the work of our dedicated faculty, like Dr. Casimer DeCusatis and Dr. Robert Cannistra.

While I have been Dean we have increased the reach of the School by creating two School Signature Events: the Marist Computing Conference (MCC) and the Marist Mind Meld (MMM). The very first MCC was held on Friday, November 7, 2025. MCC is the updated version of the long-running Enterprise Computing Community (ECC) conference. On the same day, we hosted the 2nd Mid-Hudson Valley TechMeet, an event designed for local students to showcase their research and network with each other, as well as with professionals in the computing industry.

Marist Mind Meld was organized on Saturday, March 7, 2026, in association with Marist’s Liberty Partnership Program. Nearly 60 middle school students from the Poughkeepsie City School District enjoyed STEM enrichment activities run by School faculty.

In alignment with our School’s focus on student centrality, you will notice that more than half of the pages of this Newsletter are devoted to highlighting the achievements, experiences, and activities of our students!

I visited Marist Italy in Florence and Marist Dublin in Ireland in February 2026 to experience firsthand the two most popular study abroad experiences for SCSM students.

In 2026 we were able to convince Dr. Pablo Rivas to leave Baylor University and to (re)join Marist! He had previously spent five years in our School as Assistant Professor of Computer Science from 2015 to 2020; now he will serve as Associate Professor of Computer Science.

Our faculty are the best! Dr. Donald Schwartz, Chair of the Computing Technology department, won the 2026 Award for Academic Advising. Dr. Carolyn Matheus, Professor of Information Systems, won the 2026 Marist Board of Trustee’s Faculty Award for Distinguished Teaching, becoming the sixth SCSM faculty member to do so.



School of Computer Science and Mathematics Factbook

Undergraduate Majors in SCSM	Fall 2024 Total	Fall 2025 Total
Computer Science (including 5 year BS/MS pathways)	223	173
Cybersecurity	86	81
Data Science & Analytics	23	27
Information Technology & Systems	27	30
Applied Mathematics	21	26
Adolescent Education-Special Education (5 year pathway)	12	19
Mathematics	14	12
Total Undergraduate Enrollment	406	368



of our recent
SCSM Graduates
are attending
Graduate School!
or are **Employed***

*According to the Marist 2021-2025 Undergraduate Outcomes Report



Faculty Awards & Recognitions



Dr. Bowu Zhang, Associate Professor of Computer Science, and **Brian Gormanly**, Senior Professional Lecturer of Computer Science, have received a Marist SPARK grant for their project "MAPLE: Marist AI Platform for Learning & Engagement", a student-built suite of AI tools designed to support students and faculty across the university. This will include MaristChat, a tool to provide students with academic navigation, campus services and career resources; and an auto-grading tool for faculty that will provide AI feedback on assignments.



Melissa Chodziutko, Professional Lecturer of Computer Science, was selected as the recipient of the Faculty of the Year 2026 award. This award recognizes faculty who go above and beyond in their role, and the awardee is

chosen by the Marist Student Government Association. Professor Chodziutko was nominated alongside fellow Computer Science and Mathematics faculty members Dr. Matthew Glomski and Dr. Joe Kirtland.



Dr. Duy Nguyen, Associate Professor of Mathematics, was awarded a prestigious Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award in Summer 2026. He spent six weeks teaching *Recent Advances in Variational Inference* in Vietnam's International

University, which is part of the National University in Ho Chi Minh City. This course will introduce students to Variational Bayes, a method used to approximate complex probability distributions, and will discuss modern techniques in data and machine learning.



Dr. Eitel Lauría, Professor of Data Science & Information Systems, has received a Marist SPARK grant for his project "Early Detection of First-Semester Attrition Using Machine Learning", which aims to design a multi-stage predictive

pipeline that leverages several factors to detect emerging risks in students with enough time to begin proactive support.

Dr. Carolyn Matheus, Professor of Information Systems, was honored with the 2025 Board of Trustees' Faculty Award for Distinguished Teaching during the Fall 2025 Annual Faculty and Staff Convocation. This award is given to faculty members in recognition of their exceptional commitment to student learning and continuing improvement in education. Dr. Matheus' receipt of this honor marks the sixth member of the SCSM faculty to win this prestigious award. Previous SCSM faculty winners held a private dinner with President Weinman in attendance to congratulate her achievement.



At the Convocation, Dr. Matheus had an opportunity to present the strategy developed by the Marist AI Steering Committee. This presentation discussed progress and plans for Marist's integration of AI, including the Applied AI minor which she was involved in developing.

A new one credit online course, created by Dr. Matheus, will launch this fall for students: CMPT109L AI Literacy Bootcamp. The course provides students with foundational knowledge of AI and GenAI, a review of ethical and societal issues, and discusses the interdisciplinary applications of AI. Dr. Matheus' assures, "It is grounded in Marist's 'and not or' approach, pairing technical fluency with ethical reflection, human judgment, and interdisciplinary thinking. This new 1-credit course is ideal for students seeking knowledge in AI."

In addition, Dr. Matheus is stepping into a new position as Associate Dean of the School of Computer Science and Mathematics. In this role, Dr. Matheus will be responsible for enhancing the academic vibrancy of the School by implementing innovative curricular and programmatic initiatives.



From left to right: Kevin Weinman, Katie Kodat, Carolyn Matheus, Beth Quinn



Faculty Spotlights



Dr. Pablo Rivas returned to Marist University in 2026 as an Associate Professor of Computer Science, bringing to the School a nationally and internationally recognized record in artificial intelligence, responsible AI, cybersecurity,

natural language processing, computer vision, and quantum machine learning. A prolific scholar and author, he has authored or coauthored more than 170 peer-reviewed publications and contributed to more than 160 conferences and invited presentations. He is the author of the textbook *Deep Learning for Beginners* (Packt, 2020), a Senior Member of both IEEE and ACM, and the recipient of Baylor University's Outstanding Scholarship Award, the Outstanding Contribution to NLP Award, and several best-paper awards. His career includes research at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, faculty leadership at Baylor University, and continued service as Director of the NSF IUCRC Center for Responsible AI and Governance.

Dr. Rivas leads the Rivas AI Lab, available at lab.rivas.ai, where students and research partners study responsible and applied AI. He has led or co-led more than \$2.4 million in funded research, education, and industry projects supported by the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, Google, and industry partners. He also introduced the concept of AI Orthopraxy, which calls for moving responsible-AI principles beyond statements and into tested practice.

His return continues a strong earlier record at Marist from 2015 to 2020. During those years, Dr. Rivas helped expand the School's teaching in artificial intelligence, machine learning, deep learning, natural language processing, data science, cybersecurity, algorithms, and technology ethics. He directed graduate and honors research, helped students turn class and thesis work into peer-reviewed papers and conference presentations, and led industry-funded work through the New York State Cloud Computing and Analytics Center that placed Marist students in paid technical roles. He also chaired the Online and Distance Education Committee, advised student groups, coached ACM programming teams, supported women in computing, and served as International Graduate Student Internship Coordinator, work for which he received Marist's 2019 Internship Faculty Coordinator Award. His return gives Marist students access to an established research program, a broad network of academic and industry partners, and a faculty mentor whose work combines high-level scholarship with student and institutional results.

Dr. Robert Cannistra, Distinguished Professional Lecturer of Computer Science, Information Technology & Systems, has earned his Ph.D. in Cyber Operations, with his thesis, *A Cyber Threat Framework for Healthcare Transactions using Service Function Chaining* from South Dakota State University in Spring 2026.



Dr. Cannistra's dissertation addresses a critical challenge in healthcare cybersecurity: how to protect sensitive healthcare transactions and patient information as data is in transit across the network. His research contributes to the growing body of knowledge on defending healthcare systems against evolving cyber threats, and explores how modern application-aware cybersecurity architecture can be applied to real-world healthcare environments, particularly where legacy systems and sensitive data create unique security challenges. This work has implications not only for the academic community, but also for industry practitioners seeking new methods to secure healthcare transactions and protect patient information.

Completing his Ph.D. stands as a testament to years of hard work, commitment, and belief in the value of lifelong learning. His accomplishment reflects Marist's commitment to academic excellence, applied research, and preparing students to address complex technological challenges in an increasingly connected world.



Dominick Foti, Professional Lecturer of Computing Technology, is now leading Marist Technology Research and Innovation Center (MTRIC). MTRIC uses Marist-IBM's Joint Study groundwork to

propel Marist students' success in research opportunities, conference presentations, and internships. MTRIC students can apply their learning to real-world problems and create lasting connections with industry professionals; empowering them to make decisions and take charge in their field. (See page 11 of this Newsletter for more information about MTRIC)



Dr. Joseph Kirtland, Professor of Mathematics, became the first full-time faculty member in our School to spend a semester abroad sharing his expertise and teaching at the Marist Italy campus in Florence in Spring 2026. Dean Buckmire visited

Florence and observed two of Dr. Kirtland's classes.



2025-2026 Notable Student Events

Mathematics Colloquium Series

The School of Computer Science and Mathematics regularly hosts a colloquium most Friday afternoons in Fall and Spring semester; covering topics from Math student internships, industry experts, and student research projects. Presenters include several current Marist students and alumni:

Griffen Carey '26	Grace Gorreck '26
Isabella Garcia '26	Gabriela Ramon '26
Sydney George '26	Grace Stoner '26
Sean Bruno '26	Maya Zutshi '27
Brayden Kehoe '27	Dreama Manganiello '26
Ryan Jaswell '26	Nick Toubacaris '27
Elena Morgan '27	Kyle Mulkins '26
Isabel Pappas '26	Mitchell Macijauskas '26



Griffen Carey '26 and Sydney George '26, after their colloquium presentations

Computer Society Club Hackathon

From April 17 to April 19, 2026, the Marist Computer Society held a Hackathon, a 48-hour coding challenge where teams built a project based on Campus Enterprise Computing and Agentic AI. This year, the Computer Society Hackathon's judges were from IBM and Impiricus.



Marist Computer Society Members at the Hackathon on April 19, 2026

Faculty Student Socials

Starting in Fall 2025, the School of Computer Science and Mathematics was proud to host our first Student-Faculty Social. This was a great chance for students and faculty to share pizza and play some games. This casual drop-in time was a huge success, with many students stopping by to chat and hang out with faculty and peers. Many attendees requested continuing the event for following semesters; in Spring 2026, the second Student-Faculty Social was held. Special thanks to Melissa Chodziutko for planning these events, and to our students and faculty for attending!



Professors Algozzine (left) and DeCusatis (right) checking in with students at the Student-Faculty Social



Mason Matheus '27, (above, below left) climbed the Umbwe route to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro for spring break! He shared his Red Fox Spirit upon reaching Uhuru Peak, the highest point on the continent of Africa (above). This summer he summited Mount Ranier in Washington with fellow Marist Computer Science alums **Joshua Matheus '05** (middle) and **Justin Svegliato '14** (right).



Signature Events

Marist Computing Conference 2025

The inaugural Marist Computing Conference (MCC), held on November 7, 2025, continues a tradition of technical excellence which began with the establishment of the Marist Enterprise Computing Community (ECC) in 2008. MCC continues to explore excellence in enterprise computing but has expanded its scope to include topics such as Data Science, Mathematics, Quantum Computing, and more.

The event included Keynote Speaker Scott Tunner, from New Era Technologies, who shared his presentation, *Risk Management: The Why Behind Everything We Do in Cybersecurity*. There were twenty-four concurrent talk sessions from speakers across a spectrum of topics, including individuals from IBM, Senticus, and other academic institutions. We were proud to have several Marist faculty and students present their work in quantum computing and cybersecurity. The School of Computer Science and Mathematics is proud to continue the ECC's tradition of innovation in the enterprise computing field, and looks forward to hosting another MCC event on October 30, 2026.

Congratulations to our showcased papers:

- **Quantum Computing Solutions for the time-varying Linear Quadratic Regulator** with Malick Ndiaye (Marist University), Augusto Gonzalez-Bonorino (University of Arizona) and Casimer DeCusatis (Marist University)
- **Machine-Learning Evaluation of Part-time Instructors in First-year College Students** with Eitel Lauria (Marist University)
- **Quantum Algorithms for the Mitigation of DDoS Attacks** with Cameron Cogburn (RPI), Rian Dickman '26 and Casimer DeCusatis (Marist University)



- **Should BBR be the default TCP Congestion Control Protocol?** with Paul Bergeron '26, Josue Abreu '25, and Sandhya Aneja (Marist University)
- **Partially Homomorphic Encryption for the Internet of Things** with Bowu Zhang (Marist University)
- **GRU-based Learning for the Identification of Congestion Protocols in TCP Traffic** with Paul Bergeron '27 and Sandhya Aneja (Marist University)



From left to right: Royal Kozlowski, Emiliano Ayara, Simon Grabbe, from Bergen Community College



Ruffino Small, MLPP Mentor, assisting students with STEM activities



Marist Mind Meld 2026

Sixty Poughkeepsie middle school students joined the School of Computer Science and Mathematics for an exciting day of hands-on mathematics and computer science activities that sparked creativity and inspired exploration. The School CSM joined with Marist Liberty Partnership Program (MLPP) to plan the event. Middle school students collaborated and experimented to solve real-world challenges in a fun, supportive environment; because at **Marist Mind Meld: Curiosity + Creativity = Fun!**

Special thanks to our student volunteers, who helped to direct our visitors, answer their questions, and assist during their experiments; as well as Associate Professor of Mathematics, Dr. Elizabeth Reid, the event's lead organizer.



Mid-Hudson Valley TechMeet 2025

The 2025 Mid-Hudson Valley TechMeet had a focus on emerging technologies, community collaboration, and innovation. This year, it was collocated with the Marist Computing Conference. Forty-four Marist students presented twenty-one posters to faculty and industry professionals.

- **ECRL as a Service-Cloud in a Rack** with David Galindo Delgado '27, Jozef Maselek '26, and Ryan Rosenkranse '26
- **System Processes and Reports (SPAR)** with Abhijeet Cherungottil '26 and Sumanth K. Katapally '26
- **Applying Machine Learning to Automate and Enhance CVE Mapping in Cybersecurity** with Marcus Regan '27
- **Automated Cyber Threat Intelligence Mapper** with Cameron Achorn '26, Max Debin '26, and Marcus Regan '27
- **Detecting macOS Malware from Endpoint Security Events using Machine Learning** with Alexander Cianfoni '26, Zachary Outman '26, Kyle Mirkovic '26, and Paul Bergeron '26
- **Voice Cloning and Deepfake Detection: Evaluating AI Threats and Cybersecurity Countermeasures in Today's Society** with Rigby Gee '26 and Nico Blanco '26
- **Physical Penetration Test of a University** with Bryson Fritz '26, Jared Kerin '26, and Charlie Samuel '26
- **Use of the Flipper Zero (Marauder) for Evaluating Rogue Wi-fi Threats** with Steven Savva '26 and Nathaniel Pena '26
- **Building Trust in Crypto: Designing a Safer and More User-Friendly Future** with Prisha Satish '28
- **Hireme Africa: AI-Powered Candidate Analysis** with Dumebi Akukwe '26 and Victor Adaun '27
- **Predicting Offensive Possession Outcomes in Division I Women's Lacrosse Using Machine Learning Models** with Shannon Maier '26
- **Predicting Song Popularity Using Spotify Data** with Jumin Shrestha '26 and Isabella Garcia '26
- **One Profile Per Person: Knowledge-Graph Constraints and GraphRAG for Identity Assurance** with Colin Boykin '26
- **Fair AI Moderation for Biographical Platforms** with Linda Mukundwa '26
- **Multifidelity Sensor Placement in Bayesian State Estimation Problems** with Gabriela Ramon '27, Geena Sarnoski '26, and Vasishta Tumuluri '26
- **Deduplication and Probabilistic Record Linkage: A Comparative Study of Transformer-Based, Gradient Boosted, and Fellegi-Sunter Models for Identity Resolution**



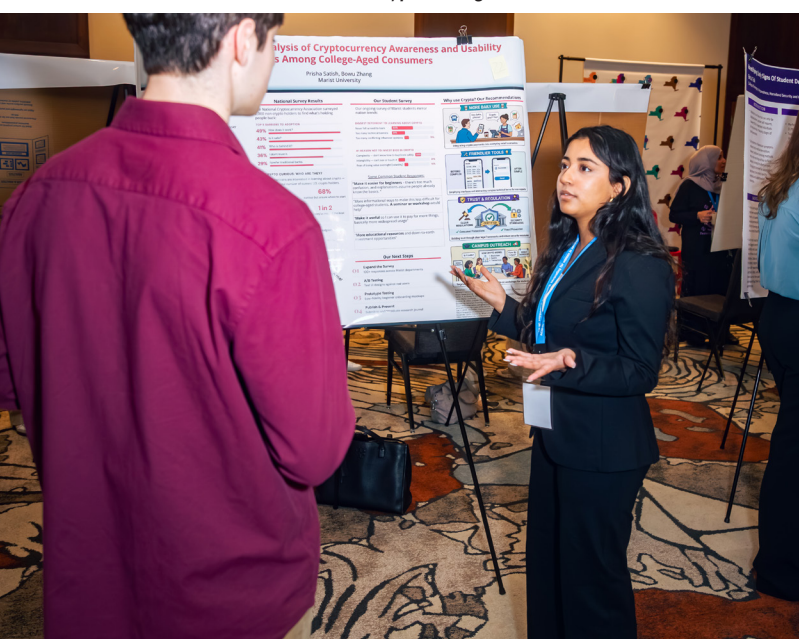
in Synthetic Data Systems with Michael Kurilko '28 and Thomas Bruce '28

- **Dark Web Digger: Modular Scraping for Dark Web Intel** with David Martinez '25, Samantha Stortz '27, and Tyler Richards '26
- **Congestion Control Protocols via GRU Models** with Paul Bergeron '26
- **Comparison of Quantum Computing Algorithms for Mitigation of DDoS Attacks** with Rian Dickman '26
- **Cybersecurity Framework for Technical, Effective, and Reliability Management** with Adam Ibrahim '26, Yousef Ibrahim '27, and Aidan Albelli '26
- **Designing a Cybersecurity Sandbox for SOC Training with Splunk** with Daniel Baturin '26, Ralph Wakim '26, and Lorenzo Marfoggia '26

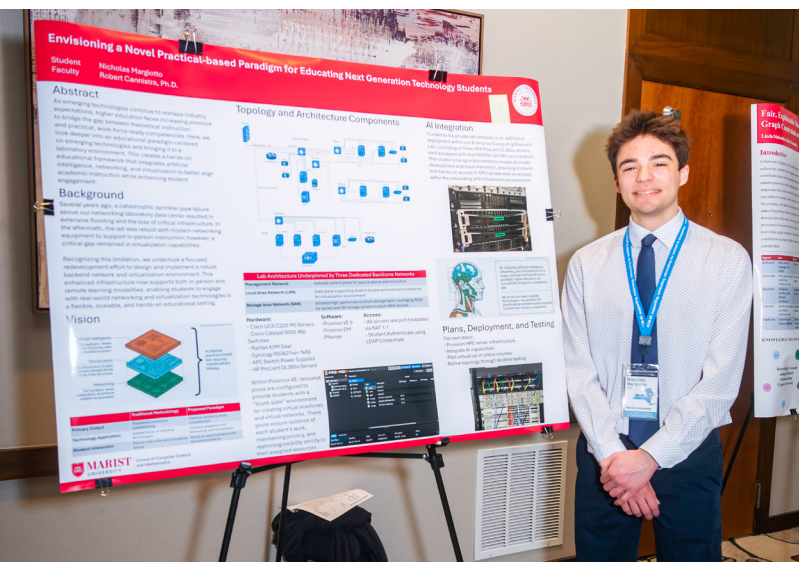




Linda Mukundwa '26, presenting at NYCWiC



Prisha Satish '28 discussing her presentation, "The Youth Crypto Paradox"



Nicholas Margiotto '27, presenting at NYCWiC

New York Celebration of Women in Computing (NYCWiC)

NYCWiC is a regional conference dedicated to empowering women and their allies in computing; it serves as a vital platform for networking, learning, and celebrating the contributions of women in technology. NYCWiC's mission is to promote the academic, social, and professional growth of technical women in the state of New York. The goal of NYCWiC is to encourage women to complete their studies in computing by exploring careers and meeting women leaders from business, industry, and academia. Attendees will gain insights into cutting-edge research, breakthrough technologies, and the practical applications shaping the future of tech.

The Marist School of Computer Science and Math is proud to be a long time academic Platinum sponsor of NYCWiC. Several of our faculty and staff are involved in both the logistics and running of the conference, and enjoy showing up and supporting our student presenters' hard work.

This year's presenters were:

- **Congestion Control** with Bradley Ames '28 and Paul Bergeron '26
- **Relevancy Scoring Determined Through Automated Vulnerability Prioritization** with Caitlin Bartman '26
- **One Profile Per Person: Knowledge-Graph Constraints and GraphRAG for Identity Assurance** with Colin Boykin '26
- **Fair, Explainable Moderation for Collaborative Biographies via Knowledge Graph Constraints and Agentic LLMs** with Linda Mukundwa '26
- **Envisioning a Novel Practical-based Paradigm for Educating Next Generation Technology Students** with Nicholas Margiotto '27
- **The Youth Crypto Paradox: How Complexity and Negative Perception Prevent Adoption** with Prisha Satish '28
- **Scaling Quantum Computer Algorithms for Mitigating Denial of Service Attacks** with Rian Dickman '26
- **Dark Web Digger: Modular Scraping for Dark Web Intel** with Samantha Stortz '27, Tyler Richards '26, and Owen Stanley '27



Sue Chance, Associate Director of Graduate Admission, Marist University at NYCWiC





Celebration of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (CURSCA)

The first CURSCA was held in April 2002 and was limited to a display of scientific posters; today, CURSCA includes poster presentations, oral presentations, and creative performances. CURSCA is a vibrant display of the complexity and depth of undergraduate research and creative pursuits at Marist. As Marist's annual showcase of scholarly and creative work by undergraduates, CURSCA provides a platform for students to share their work with, and be celebrated by, the wider Marist community. Presenters are given a chance to show their dedication and hard work and discuss their work either solo, in groups, or with Marist faculty.

SCSM is proud to recognize and share our accomplished students who participated in this year's presentations on April 22, 2026:

- **Classified Document Classification** with Paul Bergeron '26
- **Vulnerability Prioritization Relevancy Scoring System** with Cameron Achorn '26, Max Debin '26, Caitlin Bartman '26, and Marcus Regan '27
- **Human-AI Collaboration in Software Development: A Comparative Study of LLM-Generated Code for Educational Innovation** with Matthew Brana '26 and Timothy Ford '26
- **The Musical Dance of Light and Darkness** with Daniel Brogen '26
- **Scaling Quantum Computer Algorithms for Mitigating Denial of Service Attacks** with Rian Dickman '26
- **Network Time Security Key Establishment for Precision Time Protocol** with Cassidy Heulings '26 and Luciano Mattoli '26

- **Post-Quantum-Cryptography (PQC) Transition Analysis of Enterprise Level Financial Firms** with Jared Kerin '26
- **Physical Penetration Test of a University** with Jared Kerin '26, Charlie Samuel '26, and Bryson Fritz '26
- **ECRL as a Service** with Jozef Maselek '26, David Galindo Delgado '27, and Ryan Rosenkranse '26
- **The Marist Cyber Range: Simulating a Real-World Cybersecurity Environment** with Nate Pena '26, Erick Perez '26, Ryan Clark '27, and Benjamin Brandt '27
- **Addressing Privacy Concerns in Trail Cam Images through Human Anonymization** with Awais Razaque '27, Samuel Berkovich '27, Evan Brown '26, Abel Scholl '26, and Hamid Tipu '27
- **Mac Malware Detection** with Wael Shahadeh '26, Alexander Cianfoni '26, Ralph Wakim '26, and Zachary Outman '26
- **Dark Web Digger: Modular Scraping for Dark Web Intel** with Samantha Stortz '27, Tyler Richards '26, Marissa Ratschki '27, and Owen Stanley '27



Professor Melissa Chodziutko and students at CURSCA



CSM Student Experience Highlights

Experiential Learning in Computing Technology

Melissa Chodziutko, Lecturer in Computer Technology, and several students worked hard to prepare and set-up computers, donated by senior Alexander Cianfoni & CMI-Tec, to ensure that high school students at Community Matters 2, a local organization providing education, advocacy, and community in Poughkeepsie, would have access to devices that would enhance their learning and promote their future in computer science. Our students spent weeks diagnosing, cleaning, and repairing the computers so that they were ready to be used by the program, which previously did not have extensive access to computers.



High Schoolers from Community Matters 2 with computers refurbished by SCSM students

Experiential Learning with Marist Poll



Mentored by **Dr. Reza Sadeghi**, Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Director of Polling Analytics at Marist Poll, several Computer Science and Math students, now have the unique opportunity

to receive real-world, hands-on experience working alongside professionals at the Marist Poll.

As part of the Public Opinion Analytical Group (POAG), students have the opportunity to analyze real-world datasets using state-of-the-art technologies, such as Large Language Models (LLMs), deep learning, and probabilistic graphical models. Participants will gain hands-on experience working with advanced computing platforms and architectures, including Amazon Web Services (AWS) and IBM Z systems.

Under the direction of Dr. Reza Sadeghi and the professionals at the Marist Poll, this research group has provided extraordinary opportunities to more than 40 students, to date, to collaborate

with students of other academic majors to solve complex, real-world issues.

The Marist Poll CSM Spring 2026 employees and their projects were:

- **AI-Enhanced Data Distribution Analysis** with Gabrielle Knapp '26, Trevor Sullivan '28, and Jack Teller '28
- **RDQ Platform (Browser AI Agent)** with Matthew Jones '27, Alexander Neunherz '28, and Usman Ishaq '29
- **Data Answering Engine** with Rohan Patel '28 and Tyler Allen '27
- **Network Science** with Abel Scholl '26 and Amanda Barrett '28
- **Deep Graph Generation** with Jeremy Frank '27 and Jiweish Rajbhandari '28
- **Probabilistic Graphical Model** with Saad Dahbani '28, Sydney George '26, and Grace Stoner '27
- **Open-End Analysis** with Nicolas Blanco '26 and Sydney Fronheiser '27
- **Z-OS Operations Project** with Meherunissa Begum '27, Joshua Demskie '29, and Jeremy Frank '27



The Department of Mathematics is proud to name **Gabriela Ramon '26** the recipient of its twelfth annual Early Career Undergraduate Mathematics Research Award! This award is made possible by a generous gift from Edward Ohanian '10, and includes funding to support student attendance at regional mathematics conferences. Gabriela spent last summer at the DRUMS REU at North Carolina State University (pictured), and participated in further research opportunities this Summer 2026.



SCSM Student Research and Experiential Learning

Marist Technology Research and Innovation Center



The Marist-IBM Joint Study Program, which began in 1988 with the installation of a ten-million-dollar IBM 3090 mainframe computer, is one of the most durable significant academic-industry partnerships in the country. For over three decades, the Marist-IBM Joint Study provided faculty-students pairs with the opportunity to research, develop, and innovate technologies of interest to IBM including cybersecurity, AI, quantum computing, and enterprise computing. Over that time, the partnership grew well beyond the first mainframe. What made the program valuable was not just the technology itself or the upgrades to it, but the tremendous successes by participating Marist students; such as national and international conference presentations, internships, and full-time employment at IBM, as well as the innovative research it promoted which has directly impacted enterprise solutions. Using the Marist-IBM Joint Study as a foundational model, SCSM established Marist Technology Research and Innovation Center (MTRIC).

MTRIC serves as the central force for our students to explore more than a traditional classroom education. The School of Computer Science and Mathematics (SCSM) has strategically positioned itself to increase the number of experiential learning opportunities for students. In the ever-changing world of technology, our students need experience to match their theoretical knowledge gained in the classroom. In July of 2025, Dean Ron Buckmire appointed Dominick Foti as the SCSM Director of Strategic Partnerships and Academic Alliances, whose role is to oversee corporate, government, and non-profit relationships which create opportunities for students to apply their learning in real-world contexts.

Seeing how much value was gained from the long term partnership with IBM, Marist sought to build upon this proven model by opening the door to a wider group of industry partners.

Looking ahead, MTRIC will serve as the hub through which SCSM builds new partnerships with additional corporate, government, and non-profit organizations; extending the same rigorous, hands-on research model that made the Marist-IBM Joint Study so successful to a broader range of industries and technical domains. Under Foti's leadership, we anticipate a growing portfolio of sponsored projects, internships, and collaborative research initiatives that will give students even more opportunities

to graduate with real, demonstrable experience alongside their degrees. As SCSM continues to strengthen its ties to industry and community partners, MTRIC stands as a testament to the School's commitment to preparing students not just to enter the workforce, but to lead in it.

Some of the MTRIC projects conducted in the 2025-2026 academic year are:

- **TechSkillsHub: A Web-Based Platform for Connecting Students with Experiential Learning Opportunities in Technology and Computer Science** with Prisha Satish '28, *Faculty Advisor: Dominick Foti*
- **Comparison of Quantum Computing Algorithms for Network Traffic Partitioning and Early Mitigation of DoS/DDoS Attacks** with Robert McDonald '28, *Faculty Advisor: Casimer DeCusatis*
- **Designing a Marist Tech Clinic: Student Consultants Solving Real-World Cybersecurity and AI Problems** with Prisha Satish '28, *Faculty Advisor: Dominick Foti*
- **Designing and Implementing a Cyber Range for Hands-On Cybersecurity Education at Marist University** with Andrew Pinheiro '27, *Faculty Advisor: Dominick Foti*
- **AI Based Semantic and Behavioural Modeling for Cross Platform Attribution of Threat Actors in Dark Web Forums** with Matthew Ingoglia '28, *Faculty Advisor: Dominick Foti*
- **System Administration of the Enterprise Computing Research Laboratory** with AJ Thomas '26, Katelyn Viglietta '28, *Faculty Advisor: Chris Algozzine*
- **Tributary: Creating a One of One Verified Graph Database Through Non-Invasive Means** with Colin Boykin '27, *Faculty Advisor: Brian Gormanly*
- **Optimization Methods for Fair and Adversarially Robust Machine Learning** with Jeremy Frank '27, *Faculty Advisor: Pablo Rivas*
- **Data Security: Check Digit Schemes** with Grace Gorreck '27, *Faculty Advisor: Joseph Kirtland*
- **Mobility-Aware Driver Queue-based Congestion Control (MAQCC) for Wireless Networks** with Andrew Gomes '29, *Faculty Advisor: Sandhya Aneja*



Academic Achievement

AWARD CEREMONY CLASS of 2026

BACCALAUREATE AWARDS

School of Computer Science and Mathematics
May 21, 2026

Cameron Achorn '26

Award for Excellence in Cybersecurity

This award is given to the graduating senior whose achievements in or out of the classroom demonstrated an unusual depth of knowledge and creativity in cybersecurity and related disciplines.

Isabella Marie Garcia '26

Award for Excellence in Mathematics

This award is given to the graduating senior whose achievements in or out of the classroom demonstrated an unusual depth of mathematical knowledge and creativity.

Sydney George '26

Award for Excellence in Information Technology and Systems/Data Science

This award is given to the graduating senior whose achievements in or out of the classroom demonstrated an unusual depth of knowledge and creativity in information systems.

Sydney Fronheiser '26

Dr. William Cadden Achievement Award for Excellence in Computer Science

This award was established by the Marist University Software Engineering Research Fund in honor of its founder, Dr. William Cadden, a distinguished IBM computer scientist.

Aidan Edouard Parascando '26

Award for Excellence in Games and Emerging Media

This award is given to the graduating senior whose achievements in and out of the classroom demonstrated a unique blend of game design, technical, and artistic ability



SCSM Student Honorable Academic Achievements



Omicron Sigma Sigma 2026 Inductees

Omicron Sigma Sigma (also known as the Order of the Sword and Shield) is the first and only national honor society devoted to cybersecurity and related disciplines. The mission of the society is to promote scholarship and professional development, enhance ethical standards, and promote critical thinking among security professionals. The society was established in 2010, and currently supports chapters at over 100 institutions nationwide. The core values of the society are excellence, knowledge, ethics, and peace. Their motto is *Ex Scientia Pax*, which means "out of knowledge comes peace". Cybersecurity majors and minors qualify if they have completed at least half of the cybersecurity courses in their program of study with an overall GPA of at least 3.25.

Cameron Achorn '26	Michael Alboher '26
Paul Bergeron '26	Samuel Berkovich '27
Alexander Cianfoni '26	Evan Brown '26
Max Debin '26	Joshua Chenoweth '26
Bryson Fritz '26	Ryan Davis '26
Matthew Jones '27	Sylvie Edelstein '26
Jared Kerin '26	Matthew Ferreri '26
Lorenzo Marfoglia '26	Sam Guggino '26
Zachary Outman '26	Samuel Lavitt '26
Marcus Regan '27	Jayden Melendez '26
Charlie Samuel '26	Jovin Percoco '26
Samantha Stortz '27	James Regan '26
Ralph Wakim '26	Kevin Reiff '26

Honors Medal Recipients

Class of 2026

Paul Bergeron '26, <i>Cybersecurity</i>
Matthew Brana '26, <i>Computer Science</i>
Daniel Brogen '26, <i>Games & Emerging Media</i>
Griffin Carey '26, <i>Mathematics; Business Administration</i>
Isabella Marie Garcia '26, <i>Applied Mathematics</i>
Sydney George '26, <i>Data Science & Analytics</i>



Pi Mu Epsilon 2026 Inductees

Pi Mu Epsilon, the National Honorary Mathematics Society, is an organization whose purpose is the promotion of scholarly activity among mathematics students. Pi Mu Epsilon was founded over one hundred years ago at Syracuse University on May 25, 1914. The Marist University chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon, Designated New York Alpha Pi, is the 346th chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon. All Chapters have been installed at institutions that have demonstrated a high level of interest in undergraduate mathematics research.

Griffin Carey '26	Gabriela Ramon '26
Sydney George '26	Nadia Sapano '26
Adam Macklin '26	Grace Stoner '26



From l to r: G. Ramon, N. Sapano, A. Macklin, G. Stoner, G. Carey & S. George



Previous PME alums from l to r: M. Nakamura, B. Main, M. Lombardo, E. Morgan, R. Hawks, B. Lopez, A. Pitts, K. Mulkins, N. Toumbacaris, K. Lawler, S. Johnson

Cayleigh Goberman '26, <i>Computer Science</i>
Shannon Maier '26, <i>Informational Technology & Systems</i>
Aidan E. Parascando '26, <i>Games & Emerging Media</i>
Karina Syrota '26, <i>Computer Science</i>
Francine Wooley '26, <i>Games & Emerging Media</i>



Alumni Updates

Meet Our Distinguished Alumni

In this year's newsletter we focused on alumni whose graduation year ended in a 1 or 6, but all are welcome. Share your updates with us at <https://tinyurl.com/CSAMNARS> - we would love to hear from you!

Stacy Rhubin '96, BS Mathematics, has been teaching mathematics since graduating from Marist. She now serves as the Mathematics Department Chair at Monroe-Woodbury High School.



Michael Berkley '01, BS Mathematics, is finishing up his 25th year teaching at Arlington High School, his alma mater. As a local, he has been happy to watch Marist thrive.

Matthew Hoyt '01, BS Mathematics, has been a math teacher for 25 years and a math coordinator for 10 years at Arlington High School. He has been coaching Varsity Basketball for 24 years. He has earned two masters degrees, one in Secondary Mathematics and the other in Administration. He absolutely loves his job and teaching, saying "It has been an amazing career, working with the students has been an absolute joy."

Michael Caiola '11, BS Mathematics & Communications, when he is not taking care of his two kids, is a Senior Biomedical AI Engineer at Credence working on using AI/ML to help in variety of health topics, including classifying genetic causes of pediatric congenital heart disease and detecting neurological disorders from video.

James Kreinbihl '11, BS Mathematics, went on to earn his PhD from Wesleyan University. After some time working in academia as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Trinity College (Hartford, CT), he joined Travelers where he is a Senior Data Scientist.

Caitlin Murray '16, BS Mathematics, has held nine different roles over the ten year tenure of her career. She has been able to see the business from various points of view, including supporting a 24/7 manufacturing facility. She is now a Data and Analytics Manager at Trane Technologies supporting the finance function for the Americas.



Brian Main '16, BS Applied Mathematics & Computer Science, has been employed as a Software Development Engineer in Test (SDET) for Office Ally while relentlessly pursuing their passions in higher education, and personal health.

Tim Ondrey '16, BS Information Technology, MS in Information Systems, is currently a Technical Account Manager at Amazon Web Services, supporting Independent Software Vendor customers.

Amy Pitts '20, BS Applied Mathematics, Data Science & Analytics, successfully defended her dissertation and earned a PhD in Biostatistics from Columbia University's School of Public Health. She is now a Principal Biostatistician at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, leading the statistical strategy for multiple post hoc analyses. She was invited to Marist University in March 2026 to give the Keynote Address at the Pi Mu Epsilon induction ceremony.

Jessica Cerbone '21, BS Applied Mathematics & Economics, is currently a Global Technical Manager at Bloomberg LP, overseeing the Credit Ratings Data team and leading strategic initiatives in data automation, including pipeline modernization and AI-driven information extraction. She focuses on scaling product coverage, advancing data quality standards, and accelerating data delivery to support Bloomberg's global credit ratings offerings.

Julia Deinstadt '21, BS Applied Mathematics & Economics, is a Structured Finance Specialist at Cardo AI, a financial technology company bringing transparency and intelligence to the structured finance market. Prior to this, she was a Senior Associate on the Asset-Backed Finance Team at New York Life Investment Management, where she focused on residential credit and oil and gas transactions. She began her career at S&P Global, where she spent nearly four years as an analyst covering Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities.

Katie Massey '24, BS Applied Mathematics, is currently working towards her PhD in Applied Mathematics at Ohio State University.



Lillian McPadden '25, BS Computer Science, is working at IBM as a Quality Assurance/Test Developer where she tests mainframe products before they become available to customers & clients. She is also an IBM Academic Ambassador for Marist University where

she has coordinated networking sessions, hackathons, workshops, and engineering week activities through the School of Mathematics and Computer Science.



Dreema Manganiello '26, BA Mathematics, will join Arlington High School as an Internship Certificate teacher candidate for the upcoming 26-27 school year, and return to Marist to complete her Master's in education with a special education certification.



Faculty of Computer Science and Mathematics

2025-2026 Academic Year

Dr. Ron Buckmire Dean Professor of Mathematics	HC3013	Dr. Gissella Bejarano Assistant Professor of Computer Science	HC3002
Cynthia Worrad Assistant Dean	HC3012	Dr. Robert Cannistra Distinguished Professional Lecturer of Computer Science, Information Technology and Systems	HC3010
Dr. Carolyn Matheus Associate Dean Professor of Information Systems	HC3008	Melissa Chodziutko Professional Lecturer of Computer Science	HC3014
Dr. James Helmreich Chair, Mathematics Department Associate Professor of Mathematics	HC3046	Dr. Casimer DeCusatis Associate Professor of Information Technology & Systems Director of Cybersecurity Education	HC3039
Dr. Donald Schwartz Chair, Computing Technology Department Associate Professor of Computer Science	HC3019	Dominick Foti Professional Lecturer of Computing Technology Director of MTRIC	HC3053
Dr. Scott Frank Professor of Mathematics	HC3045	Brian Gormanly Senior Professional Lecturer of Computer Science	HC3003
Dr. Matthew Glomski Associate Professor of Mathematics	HC3016	Matthew Johnson Senior Professional Lecturer of Computer Science Special Assistant to the Dean	HC3006
Dr. Carla Hill Lecturer in Mathematics	HC3015	Marilyn Kienzle Senior Professional Lecturer of Computing Technology & Data Science	HC2011
Dr. Joseph Kirtland Professor of Mathematics	HC3042	Dr. Alan Labouseur Professor of Computer Science Director of Academic Affairs Data Analytics	HC3007
Dr. Peter Krog Associate Professor of Mathematics	HC3044	Dr. Eitel Lauria Professor of Computer Science, Data Science & Information Systems Director of Graduate Programs	HC3043
Dr. Tracey McGrail Associate Professor of Mathematics	HC3038	Cathy Martensen Professional Lecturer of Computer Science	HC3052
Dr. Malick Ndiaye Assistant Professor of Mathematics	HC2012	Dr. Roger Norton Dr. Richard L. Foy Chair in Computer Science	HC2013
Dr. Duy Nguyen Associate Professor of Mathematics	HC3017	Dr. Pablo Rivas Associate Professor of Computer Science	HC3040
Dr. Elizabeth Reid Associate Professor of Mathematics	HC3005	Dr. Reza Sadeghi Assistant Professor of Computer Science Director of Public Opinion Analytics, MIPO	HC3019
Chris Algozzine Senior Professional Lecturer of Computer Science	HC3009	Dr. Bowu Zhang Associate Professor of Computer Science	HC3041
Dr. Sandhya Aneja Assistant Professor of Computer Science	HC3018		
Dr. Juan Arias Senior Professional Lecturer of Computing	HC3004		





MARIST UNIVERSITY®

School of Computer Science and Mathematics

SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

HANCOCK CENTER, 3399 NORTH ROAD,
POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12601 | (845) 575-3610

✉ SCHOOL.CSM@MARIST.EDU

MARIST.EDU/COMPUTER-SCIENCE-MATH

📷 [@MARIST_CS_AND_MATH](https://www.instagram.com/MARIST_CS_AND_MATH)