

Annual Report: Pi Mu Epsilon – Vermont Alpha Chapter – 2025-26

Advisor and Officers:

Advisor: Dr. Amir Barghi

President: Ty Wick '26

Number of new members Inducted: 7; Number of continuing student members: 1

Major Activities:

The annual **Pi Mu Epsilon Lecture** was held in conjunction with the Induction Ceremony on October 24, 2025. Our speaker was **Dr. Gillian Galle (Associate Professor of Mathematics, Vermont State University Castleton)** who gave a talk entitled “Cocktail Hour Calculus: A Toast to Mathematical Curiosity”.

One highlight is the September Mathematics and Statistics Colloquium featuring presentations by six students who participated in summer research projects or internships. Among these presenters, there was one continuing PME member and there was one PME inductee. They are listed below:

- **Rafael Kowal '26** – “Learning to Govern—A Student’s Perspective on Managing Data at Scale: A Data Governance Internship at National Life Group”
- **Ty Wick '26** – “Random Approximations of the Sierpinski Gasket: A Case Study on Nonlinear Dimensionality Reduction of Non-Smooth Spaces”

Another highlight is that, on November 14, 2025, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics Colloquium was presented by **Mary Falcigno '15, M.S.**, Computer Scientist and Project Officer for Combat Capabilities Development Command Armaments Center, United States Army, titled “Your Development Arsenal: Career Experiences and Advice”.*

* Endorsement Disclaimer

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Other News about Members:

- **Rafael Kowal '26** will be starting a new role as a Data Science Specialist for National Life Group in Montpelier, Vermont in June 2026.
- **Ty Wick '26** will be starting a PhD in Plasma Physics at Dartmouth College in the Fall of 2026. He plans on creating and utilizing simulations to better understand space plasmas. He is currently interested in potentially joining the EPaCO (Extreme Plasmas around Compact Objects) research group, whose guiding question is: *“What does energetic radiation tell us about far-away astrophysical environments — and how can we build reliable digital twins of these extreme systems?”*