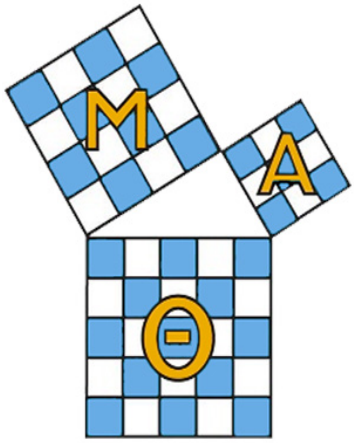


2025 Mu Alpha Theta Induction Ceremony

Thursday, May 1 ▪ 5pm
Saint Paul College

SAINT PAUL COLLEGE
Fit in. *Stand out.*

Program

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Presentation of Mu Alpha Theta

Induction Ceremony

Keynote Address

Recognition of Achievements

Closing Remarks

Adjournment

Abdirahman Omar

Engineering Major, Class of 2026

Abdirahman is an engineering student who finished as salutatorian of a graduating class of more than 200 students. He has maintained a 4.0 GPA at Saint Paul College, as well as during two years of pre-med coursework abroad. Math has always come naturally to him. In middle and high school, he served as a teaching assistant and tutor. One of his early challenges here was adjusting to the trigonometry system used in the U.S., but after a few study sessions, he was back on track. Outside of school, he enjoys soccer, working out, and anything physically demanding. He grew up watching The Big Bang Theory and credits the show's tone—part humor, part intellect—with helping spark his interest in STEM. His advice to future math students is straightforward: keep practicing.

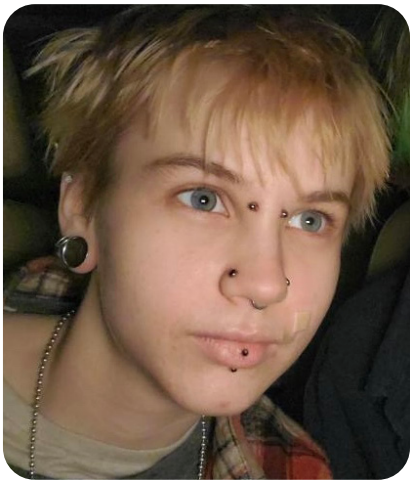
Carrie Anne Johnson

Engineering Broadfield / Electrical Engineering

Carrie Anne returned to college after 30 years, overcoming significant health challenges and the demands of single parenthood. Her persistence has paid off: she's earned two scholarships, including the Science Scholars award, and excelled in rigorous courses such as Chemistry and Calculus. Her mathematical strengths include pattern recognition, abstract thinking, and making deep interdisciplinary connections. She's especially excited by how infinite series connect to topics like Fourier analysis and data compression. While she's had to revisit foundational algebraic skills, her drive to understand—not just memorize—has helped her rebuild that base. Outside the classroom, Carrie Anne is a singer, ecological restoration advocate, and technologist at heart, deeply interested in the ethical development of AI and nanotech. Her biggest joy, though, is cheering on her teenage son at basketball games. Her advice to future students is clear: start at the beginning, go slow, and never let anyone convince you that math is too hard.

Jackson Pierce

Chemistry Major, Class of 2026



Jackson has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA at Saint Paul College and brings a sharp eye for logic and pattern recognition to his mathematical work. While he initially found the chain rule in calculus challenging, he worked through it by tackling numerous practice problems until it clicked. He's competed in the AMATYC Student Research League and participated in robotics through FTC and FRC during his first year.

Outside of academics, Jackson is a passionate drummer and visual artist. He enjoys photography, painting, and drawing; but is also an avid gamer. His mother, a chemist and UW–Madison alum, inspired his love for science early on and continues to be a source of academic motivation. His advice to future math students? Use online resources, seek help when needed, and don't go it alone. Study groups can make all the difference.

Leonidas Coleman-Harrell

Chemistry TP AS, Science and Engineering Technology AS, Spanish TP AA — Class of Spring 2026

Leonidas is pursuing degrees in Chemistry, Spanish, and Science & Engineering Technology. His strongest academic achievement so far isn't tied to a single award, but to the discipline he developed during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. That shift to self-directed learning helped him build a 4.0 GPA and earn over 50 college credits before finishing high school. In math, his greatest strength is persistence. He's not someone who finds every new concept easy, but he knows the process works—start, repeat, refine, and trust that understanding will come. He's especially interested in mathematical modeling and recently gained his first hands-on experience during AMATYC Student Research League competition. Outside of school, Leonidas is active in debate and enjoys working through both sides of complex arguments. His advice is direct: "Nobody is bad at math." He credits his many math teachers over the years with deepening his understanding and encouraging his growth.

Nazdana Ahmadi

Aerospace Engineering, Class of 2027

Nazdana is an Aerospace Engineering student at Saint Paul College and has been accepted to transfer to the University of Minnesota in Fall 2025. She's quick with numbers and has a natural instinct for problem-solving, often spotting shortcuts that help her work efficiently. Like most math students, she's faced challenges—sequences used to trip her up, and she's currently working through the process of setting up triple integrals. Her approach is steady: lots of practice, videos, and repetition. Outside of school, she enjoys chess, reading, and horseback riding, and she hopes to join a chess club again. She's also an active math tutor and member of the college math club. Nazdana looks up to Marie Curie—not just for her scientific achievements, but for her perseverance. Her advice is simple and solid: master the basics. Once those are in place, math becomes a tool you can carry as far as you want.

Stuart Strack

Stuart is a PSEO student from St. Paul Central High School who has consistently maintained a weighted GPA above 4.7. As a member of the Saint Paul College Research Team, he recently completed the AMATYC Student Research League. Stuart's strengths lie in logic, problem-solving, and formulaic thinking. He admits that surface integration was a challenge, but by visualizing the surfaces and the operations involved, he was able to master the concept. Outside the classroom, Stuart competes in cross country, track and field, and curling, and enjoys playing chess. He's drawn to the work of Carl Friedrich Gauss, especially for his range and enduring contributions to mathematics. Stuart advises future students to focus on the "why" behind mathematical concepts—because understanding leads to confidence. He has also participated on his school's math team.

Roshawn Renfroe

Roshawn Renfroe has maintained a 3.5+ GPA. She has done so while balancing a rigorous course load in psychology, math, and science. She has a strong interest in data analysis and logical reasoning. These skills complement her interest in research and psychology. Statistics didn't come easy at first, but she put in the extra work through tutoring and practice, eventually making it one of her favorite subjects. Roshawn is Vice President of the Saint Paul College Math Club and draws inspiration from Katherine Johnson's groundbreaking work at NASA. Outside of school, she enjoys reading, writing, volunteering, and spending time outdoors. Her advice to future math students: don't be afraid to struggle—it's part of the process.

Mu Alpha Theta Pledge

I PLEDGE TO

maintain integrity in my studies and respect towards others. To be accountable for my work as well as my role and contribution to my school community.

I PLEDGE TO

uphold the principles of scholarship, service, leadership and the promotion of mathematics. To approach interactions with classmates, faculty, staff, and guests at Saint Paul College as opportunities for intellectual growth and character development. To promote scholarship in, enjoyment of, and zeal for mathematics among the students of Saint Paul College. In so doing, I shall prove myself worthy of a place in Mu Alpha Theta.

SAINT PAUL COLLEGE