

LEHIGH VALLEY ARMIL

Senior
Reflections



2020

LV-ARML Class of 2020

Alex Adams	Carnegie Mellon University
Alex Zhu	Princeton University
Andrew Shi	Georgia Institute of Technology
Cole Bright	The Ohio State University
Dimitri Ter-Saakov	Rutgers University
Evan Qiang	University of Pennsylvania
Gokul Murugadoss	University of Pennsylvania
Helen Hu	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Ishaan Lal	University of Pennsylvania
Joshua Ye	University of Michigan
Katherine Pan	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Kenny Yang	New York University
Kevin Wu	Yale University
Matthew Xu	Columbia University
Max Xu	University of Waterloo
Nicholai Dimov	Washington University in St. Louis
Pierre Yan	Harvard University
Pranav Garamidi	Columbia University
Richard Li	Princeton University
Sreekar Madabushi	Georgia Institute of Technology





ALEX ADAMS

Going to the competitions at Penn State was always the best part of ARML for me. I enjoyed comparing our team's scores to the other teams throughout the country and watching the rankings change throughout the day. For me the last round, the relay round, was always the most intense part of the competition. I remember my first competition when I passed the wrong answer to my teammate who used the wrong formula to somehow generate the correct answer and we got the points. ARML has been a wonderful opportunity to develop my interest in mathematics. Thank you Coach Davis and Coach Monks for having me on your team.



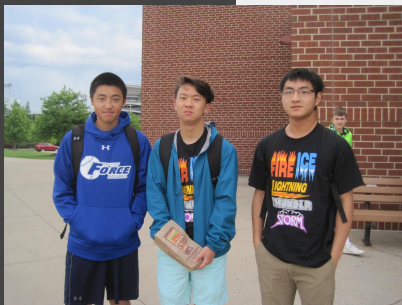


ALEX ZHU

I first joined the Lehigh Valley ARML Team in 8th grade, and on the car ride to my first practice, I only knew the two other students from Delaware. I was confused and struggled during my early practices, but each time I was unable to understand or solve a problem, another teammate and new friend was there to help me. As I moved through the teams, I met so many teammates and friends who like me were on the team out of their love for math and hope to grow, and I will forever be grateful for all of my teammates.

Before joining Lehigh Valley ARML, I had thought math was an individual task, but I immediately was amazed at how well 15 teammates could work together to solve such difficult problems. Each team wasn't 15 individual students doing what they could alone, but 15 students solving questions together as a team. Through these conversations about the problems and solutions, I not only learned how to solve these problems, but each practice helped me to expand my view of mathematics. I no longer think of math as a competition where each person solves as many problems as they can but instead a collaborative, immersive experience which allows for the sharing of brilliant ideas.

Thank you to Dr. Davis and Coach Monks, as well as all of the parents who volunteered, for helping to create such an incredible environment and experience which has helped me and every other teammate to grow and learn.



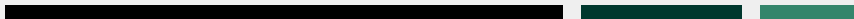


ANDREW SHI

During my 8th grade year, I first encountered the Lehigh Valley ARML Team. Up until this point, I had always loved math and came into the qualifying test as a wide eyed recruit. Though I didn't it became a goal, an achievement, a desire that I could strive towards.

I first made the Lehigh Valley ARML Team my 10th grade year, and immediately fell in love with the people, the coaches, and the atmosphere that the team provided. It was rewarding to work together with memorable people that I can call my friends.

Lehigh taught me the value of working hard and staying humble, traits that have stuck by me throughout my life.



COLE BRIGHT



Back in my 6th grade year, my mom had heard about Lehigh Valley from friends of hers. The ARML competition sounded interesting and I decided to attend the fall practices. I enjoyed participating in the practices so much that I decided to try and make the team. Although I didn't make the team that year, I was still very interested in joining. So, I tried again the next year and successfully made the Lehigh Valley team as a member of Storm in the spring of my 7th grade year.

If someone were to ask me what was my favorite part of being a member of Lehigh Valley, I would have to say that it would be difficult to choose any one thing.

The first thing that comes to mind would be the friends that I've made on the team and through the ARML competition. The process of working together, helping each other out, and striving for success (especially in the Power and Team rounds) made my Lehigh Valley friendships more meaningful and special.

Another aspect of Lehigh Valley that stands out to me was the exposure to challenging math problems. I enjoyed having the opportunity to wrap my mind around problems that I didn't immediately know the answer to, that I had to work hard at in order to solve. One aspect of practice and competition that I especially enjoyed was the Power round, where the challenge was not just to find a correct solution, but to also write a solution that was rigorous. I always felt prepared for competition because Dr. Davis made sure the practice sets were challenging.

Finally, the emphasis by both Dr. Davis and Coach Monks on teamwork and cooperation was important to me. Each practice, the focus was on working towards a common goal, helping each other out, and communicating with our teammates—not on individual achievement. The cooperative environment made my long commute (over an hour each way) worth it because of the connections I made with my teammates and coaches.

I want to thank Dr. Davis, Coach Monks, and the team parents for all of their hard work and support over the past six years. To the younger team members, I know this was a strange year, but I hope you continue with Lehigh Valley. I really enjoyed my time with the team and I hope you find it rewarding too.





DIMITRI TER-SAAKOV

I've never had a perfect relationship with competitive mathematics. In fact, I expect it to be impossible given the existence of soul crushing arithmetic errors, and other mistakes of that type. These annoying creatures replace my triangles with parallelograms, fences with fence posts, and kick numbers until they forget what side of zero they're on. Let alone the scary thought of simply not being creative or clever enough to think of a solution, the bane of math practice.

It's not impossible to dedicate hours weekly toward practicing math, but the feeling I get when surrounded by my peers at the Lehigh Valley ARML Team is an irreplaceable wonder. I don't fear even the silliest mistakes. The people around me not only teach me to avoid these blunders, but provide weightless support that lets me brush them off, and retry or move on.

I can only hope that I will find people like this again, who can guide and support each other as effectively as we do here. Thank you to Dr. Davis and Coach Monks for creating this fantastic team. And thank you to my teammates for helping me grow in my highschool years.





EVAN QIANG

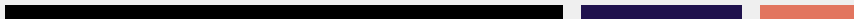
At first, I thought joining the Lehigh Valley ARML team was a big mistake.

When my brother went to one of the fall meetings when he was in eighth grade, my parents pushed me to go with him. At the time, I figured it would be a great experience; after all, math was my favorite subject in school, so why not spend a few more hours improving my computational skills? It turns out that my first practice would be full of difficulty, challenges, and struggles. I remember coming home, exhausted after three hours of thinking only in numbers and symbols, not wanting to see an addition sign ever again.

Over time, I realized that that day was a test of my determination and commitment. During my first trip to Penn State, I had regained the love for math that had temporarily disappeared. That year would soon be defined as the year of firsts: whether it was my first time eating at Big Bowl Noodle House, my first time waiting in line at Berkey Creamery for what seemed like hours, or my first time unable to sleep in the dorm rooms because of the oppressive heat, these experiences would influence and shape my life forever.

Through ARML, I have continued to develop my passion for math while also forming friendships that will last a lifetime. I have met amazing people from my very own neighborhood all the way to Virginia. I have learned how to be a small-group leader and an important team member. I have realized that ARML is not just about practicing math; it is about understanding how to overcome complicated situations, how to make connections, and how to break down complex ideas, all important qualities that will continue with me in college and beyond.

To Dr. Davis and Dr. Monks, thank you for your dedication and enthusiasm you put into this team. To the ARML parents, thank you for your constant support and delicious snacks. And finally, to all my ARML teammates, thank you for always making each Sunday a day to look forward to.



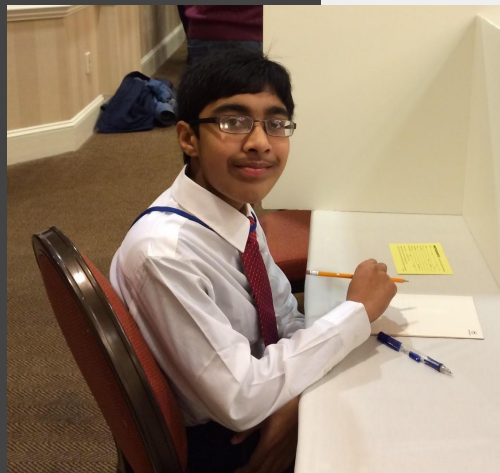
GOKUL MURUGADOSS

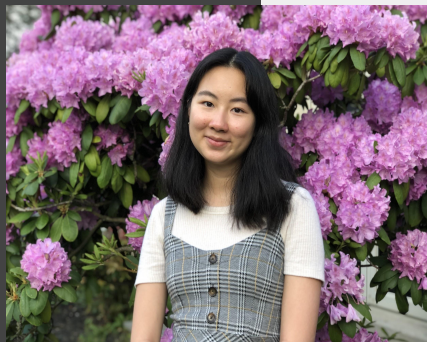
Back in seventh grade, before I had even heard of the AMC, Nicholas Wu invited me, with a couple other middle schoolers, to the Lehigh Valley contest. After getting a barely passable score, I entered a five-and-a-half year journey that brought me and dozens of other kids together in a common love for mathematics.

Despite it having taken place four years ago, I remember my confusion and bewilderment when I first joined the Fire team, because of how differently we approached the problems. Each of us calls out and tackles problems we feel most comfortable with, which is beneficial because not everyone in competition math is perfectly well-rounded. It works out, and that's a testament to both our pure mathematical prowess and our cohesiveness as a team.

If Dr. Davis prides Lehigh Valley on one thing and one thing alone, it's not that we have some of the best math students in the country, though we do. It's that we have the best math teams in the country. Time and time again, our five-team average ranks above that of other large competitors at ARML. I can't speak for the other teams with such little experience in them, but maybe we worked well together in Fire because we trusted each other and were friends. How could we not be friends, with so many good memories together? One of my favorites was when we tried to compute the base 10 value of STUCK in base 36 on a chalkboard (note: not a contest problem, it just happened). Or maybe when we chanted "Close your eyes! 3! Open your eyes!" at Penn State (no context given).

I can't look back on these great memories at Lehigh Valley ARML with anything but fondness. To Dr. Davis and Coach Monks and anyone else who helped with making Lehigh Valley ARML as amazing as it was, I deeply thank you. And of course, that gratitude would have to extend to Paul Martino and all of Lehigh Valley's other sponsors. Six years of great memories and happy Sundays wouldn't have been possible without your hard work, and I hope Lehigh Valley ARML continues to thrive in the years to come.





HELEN HU

Up until the spring of my sophomore year, Lehigh Valley ARML had been this elusive idea of competitive math somewhere far from home, a room full of kids scribbling down answers frantically and independently, their entire Sundays consumed by competition. But what I came to meet was a welcoming family beyond anything I could have imagined.

Ever since I first stepped foot into Maginnes Hall, greeted by the smell of fresh lemonade and Cheetos, I embarked on a path of discovery and learning-- and not just about math. Of course, studying the solution packet on the drive home cleared up remaining frustrations, but more importantly, I witnessed firsthand the power of collaboration and discussion, something I had never before thought possible in the realm of competition math. Whether it was our squad working together to create a more elegant proof, or shouting the name of a theorem from across the room, every member of the team was eager and happy to contribute to the learning process. This comfort and ease of collaborative learning is something I will cherish forever, and something I hope to take with me as I continue to pursue math in college.

To Coach Davis, Coach Monks, and all of the parents who generously devote their time and energy toward this amazing team-- none of this would be possible without you. Thank you for your incredible dedication and encouragement that has allowed Lehigh Valley ARML to become such a place of growth and success.

And thank you to all of my (armless) friends who have grown with me over the Sundays. Despite not always agreeing on music tastes, and playing one too many games of mafia, I know I can always count on you to respect proper gapping, bring our own ice cream cones, and draw Spongebob memes on scrap paper. Though I'm devastated that our last season was cut short, I know that the memories I've made with this team will last forever, and I can't wait for our (hashtag) ARML reunion as soon as possible.





ISHAAN LAL

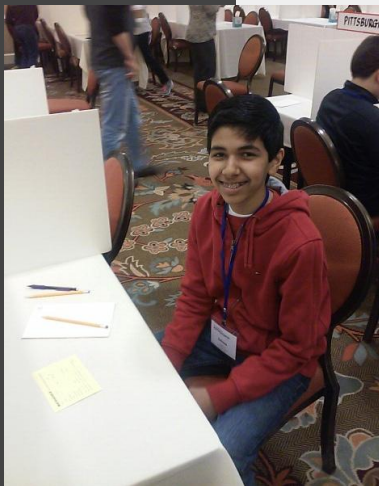
If you sat next to me during my first ever ARML practice, you would probably hear my heart thumping.

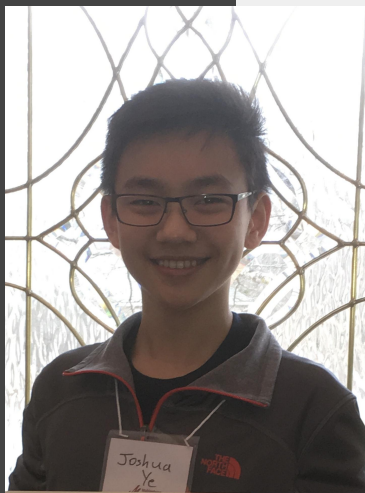
My first ever ARML practice was filled with confusion. Besides my inability to comprehend most of the problems that I read, I was confused by the people. I had expected ARML to be a group of people who are extremely serious about math. Throughout my years at ARML, I discovered that the ARML team consists of a group of people who are extremely serious about math, but they also love to have fun.

ARML has successfully proven to me that working as a group is more exciting and more efficient than working individually. Every practice, I am always astounded at what a group of fifteen students can accomplish in just a few hours. I'll admit, some practices were much more successful than others, but the journey of deciphering a difficult problem as a team and laughing about our seemingly random ways to approach a problem are the memories that I remember most. Math isn't just about finding the answer; it's about uncovering a method.

ARML has not only helped to enhance my knowledge and skills in the field of mathematics, but it also taught me a valuable skill of communicating effectively. Communicating ideas is an essential aspect of effective teamwork. I am thankful that the Lehigh Valley ARML team has consistently encouraged communication, and I am confident that the development of that skill will help me in the future.

I'd like to thank Professor Davis for having me on the team and putting together countless practices for us students. Thank you to Coach Monks for always encouraging excitement for math and for reminding me to put my name on the top of the individual rounds. And of course, thank you to the ARML students, past and present, who have provided me countless laughs and memories.





JOSHUA YE

I'm gonna be honest, I had never even heard of ARML before I took the Lehigh University High School Math Contest. I was a simple little freshman living in my own world. I liked math, and I was decent enough at it. I came into the contest with no real expectations other than that I would try my best and eat some pizza afterwards.

To me, math competitions were, quite frankly, boring. I enjoyed math in and of itself: exploring new topics, encountering new challenges, and finding creative new ways of solving them was exciting. Memorizing formulas and what method to use for which specific types of problems, on the other hand, was not.

To me, math competitions typically consisted of thirty or so sweaty kids, each doing their own thing, crammed inside of a silent dusty classroom.

However, being a part of the Lehigh Valley ARML team showed me just how wrong I was. Against all odds, I received an email from Dr. Davis that following Tuesday after the competition inviting me to join the Lehigh Valley ARML team, marking the beginning of one of the best learning experiences of my life.

From the very beginning, ARML has provided me with an experience like none other. When I pushed through the glass doors of Maginnes Hall and made my way into the main room, what I saw was far from what I expected. The first thing that I noticed was how lively and energetic the atmosphere was. The second thing I noticed was the snack table. From the very beginning, everything about ARML seemed to convey a sense of community. And that's exactly what ARML was—a community. Each Sunday practice, I saw an extremely talented group of 75 students not only work together, but laugh and joke around together. Each Sunday practice, I saw them turn around after every individual round and discuss the best way to solve the last two questions. Each Sunday practice, I saw everyone come together, not as individuals, but members of the same team.

I've learned and experienced so much through ARML, whether it be new techniques and approaches to problems or how to better communicate and collaborate with my teammates, but one thing is for sure: thanks to ARML, I'm no longer that little freshman living in my own world. I've come to learn not only how to rely on others, but to play a part within my team.

Through my time at Lehigh Valley ARML, I've met some of my closest friends and made so many cherished memories. I'll always remember our ice cream trips, our bubble tea runs, and our mafia games on the bus. Thank you guys so much for helping make ARML so special.

To Coach Davis, Coach Monks, and the parents that have spent so much of their time and effort, I can't thank you enough for all of your continued efforts to help this community thrive. I am truly grateful for all of the preparation, proctoring, organizing, scoring, and snack provisions that go on behind the scenes, and I know that this wonderful community was only made possible through your continued efforts. I know that this was certainly not how any of us would have expected this last year to go, but I am so glad to have been a part of this community. I will always be grateful for the experiences and opportunities that ARML has given me.





KATHERINE PAN

In the spring of ninth grade, I walked into a Lehigh practice for the first time. To be very honest, it was at least a little bit scary to me— I didn't really know anyone on the team other than my sister (and Gokul), and when I flipped open the practice power round, some of the symbols truly boggled my mind. It didn't quite help that I only skimmed the document outlining practice protocol rather than doing what I told my parents I did: reading it in depth. Here's a quick piece of advice to someone about to join the amazing LV-ARML team: make sure you read that document thoroughly and carefully.

Yet the first practice passed by without a major hitch. And at the end, I had stepped into a whole new world of mathematics— I fell in love with the charm of numbers and the beauty of each team's collaboration. Somehow, in a blink of an eye, I've now walked to the end of my Lehigh Valley ARML journey. No more Sunday practices to look forward to, nor hour-and-a-half drives to despise. I've taken my last jaywalk across Penn State's streets, shared the last tubs of creamery ice cream with my friends, played the last game of mafia in Ryan's room, and handed in my last ARML answers.

Through the past four years, I've not only learned mathematical principles, I've learned the power of a team, the importance of leadership, and the fundamentals of "gapping" when walking to restaurants at State College. Every Sunday, I grew not only as a mathematician but as a person, transforming from a small, scared freshman to a senior ready to brave the world. Each moment I spent crunching numbers, resolving arguments over answers, sipping Dr. Davis' signature lemonade, frantically organizing proofs, or simply enjoying my friends' presence has a special place in my heart. It's no lie that through my time at Lehigh Valley, I've gained a second family that is truly irreplaceable.

With that in mind, I want to say thank you. First of all, a huge thank you to Dr. Davis and Coach Monks for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this amazing team. The hours of dedication and hard work you've put into creating this community is the sole reason we can stand proud as Lehigh Valley today. A special thank you to Dr. Davis for teaching me so many things, but especially how to be assertive— now, I know that if anyone is pressuring me into prematurely starting a team round, I can say "Cool, man" to regain control of the situation! Thank you to all the parents who drive all the way from New Jersey and Delaware to bring the Lehigh Valley team together. Thank you to my friends, for being so supportive (especially for not voting me out even when I am the Mafia). And, of course, a sincere thank you to all of the members of the Lehigh Valley team— without you all, I would certainly not be the person I am today.





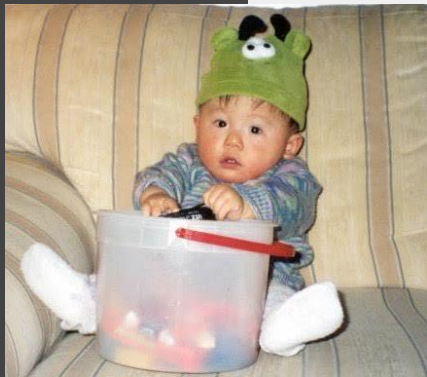
KENNY YANG

Since joining the Lehigh ARML team in 2017, the experience has been a journey that has shaped me into who I am.

Even before being accepted onto the team, my journey had already begun. I had initially attempted to join the team with many of my local friends, but I came up short on the entrance exam. As a naïve high school student, I had always thought that I had excelled at math, only for this blunder to serve as a rude awakening to my own laziness and incompetence.

This was the first step towards my journey of learning through ARML, as this seemingly 'simple' math team taught me the virtues of persistence, dedication, and creativity. From the great food at Penn State and Dr. Davis' splendid lemonade, to the cursed geometry problems that tested the limits of my spatial reasoning, ARML will always have a special place in my heart for years to come.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Davis and Coach Monks for providing such an environment for me to thrive and be challenged. It was a place for me to connect with my friends and learn to better myself, both as an individual and as a scholar. I can only hope that I will find a similar place like home during my time at college. Best wishes to everyone.





KEVIN WU

In the spring of my 8th grade year, I was invited to join Lehigh ARML after placing well at Mathcounts. Thankfully, it didn't take long to discover I wasn't anywhere close to the brightest bulb in the room. Not only was I struggling on the problems, but my teammates would often know the solutions; Every practice brought new tips and tricks, and it was incredibly satisfying the first times I was able to use these new techniques in other problems. These moments, shared with the other kids passionate about math, drove me to want to improve, to get better.

It might seem strange to spend all afternoon puzzling over math questions with dozens of other teenagers, but to us it all felt normal. As I grew year by year, Lehigh ARML stayed constant in my life. Every spring brought new faces, often at the expense of some old ones. And somewhere along the line I graduated from snack hogging shortie to the tallest in the room - from sponge of other's solutions to being the insightful one.

Gone for me and my fellow seniors are Coach Davis' weekly lemonade, carpool shenanigans or breaking spoons together at Berkey Creamery. Still, I can't help but feel excited for the great times to be had by the Lehigh members new year, and the next after that. To Coach Monks and Coach Davis, thank you for all the time and effort you put into making Lehigh ARML a terrific experience for all of us.





MATTHEW XU

It seems not long ago when I attended my first Lehigh Contest back in eighth grade. At the time, I really didn't have an idea of what ARML was and had only heard the name be mentioned a couple of times by my older sister. However, I was fortunate enough to do well enough in the Lehigh Contest to be invited to join the practices. Little did I know, this would mark the beginning of one of the most memorable experiences of my high school years.

The practices were intimidating at first, as I struggled with all the problems that the older students could easily solve. But I soon realized how inclusive of a team Lehigh Valley ARML really was, when many of the experienced members would more than happily help and guide me when I was lost or confused. Not only did I begin to grow in regard to my math skill, but I also learned so much about the importance of teamwork.

The best part about ARML, however, was something other than the challenging mathematics—it was the social aspect. Whether it was bonding over long carpools to practice, cracking inside jokes during power rounds, or rushing to get in the long lines at the Penn State Creamery, the experiences I have had and the people I have been fortunate enough to meet at ARML have significantly impacted my life.

So, as I continue into my future, I will surely never forget what I have gained from ARML. I would like to thank everyone who made these experiences possible: Coach David and Coach Monks for their invaluable commitment and guidance, all of the parents who volunteer their time every weekend to make sure each practice goes smoothly, and of course, all of my teammates who always made ARML fun.





MAX XU

When I had first participated in the Lehigh contest, I didn't know much about their team, much less their reputation. As someone who had little interest in math competitions at the time, I didn't even want to be on a team. When I was offered a spot, I was originally reluctant about attending because I had less-than-ideal math experiences in the past.

I decided to try it out and see why everyone was talking Lehigh. My mind was rather quickly changed after just a few practices. I'll admit, the first one was overwhelming. With 15 kids constantly scribbling and discussing, it took me some time to get used to the restless environment. During the timed tests, we were ruthless. I distinctly remember nearly every practice, we would frantically scramble for last minute changes and guesses. And when time was up, we would eagerly await results. It was competitive but not cutthroat—a kind of friendly competition that promotes achievement. On several occasions, I encountered problems that I couldn't solve. It was okay, because there was always a teammate who would explain it to me. I would return the favor when I could. Overall, the practices taught me the importance of communication skills and teamwork along the way, which originally wasn't natural for me to think about while doing math.

I just wanted to thank Dr. Davis, Coach Monks, and the team parents for giving me an opportunity to be a part of something great. After two years of Lehigh, I can finally say I understand what makes an awesome math team experience.





NICHOLAI DIMOV

Being part of the Lehigh Valley Math Team is an experience you can't replicate anywhere else. When I first joined, I thought it was just like any other math team, and ARML was just another math contest. This couldn't be further from the truth. Here, I found a team of friendly and talented students who love to work together on challenging math problems. The premise is competition, but really Lehigh Valley is about teamwork and camaraderie.

This team changed my approach to competition math. Even though I enjoy trying to beat my friends in the individual rounds, solving the power and team rounds together is even more rewarding. I love discussing our solutions and working together to correct our mistakes. We work hard, but it's not just math. Some of my best memories come from playing Fish with my fellow team members, whether before practice or during lunch break at HMMT.

I would also like to thank Coach Davis, Coach Monks, and the many parents for all they do to make this a seamless and enriching experience. It wouldn't be the same without their work behind the scenes to collect problems, prepare solutions, grade our answers, and provide snacks. The summer problem sets are a testament to the selfless devotion towards helping us improve our math skills year-round, making Lehigh Valley more than just an ARML team.





PIERRE YAN

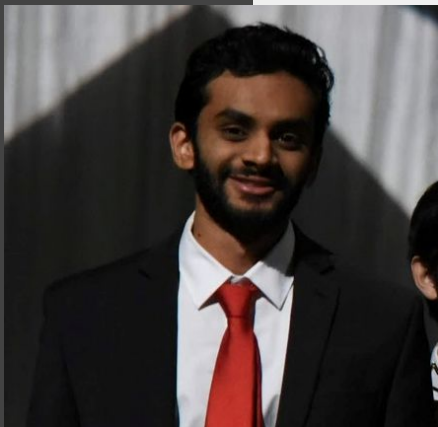
Unlike many of the other people on the Lehigh ARML team, I haven't spent 5 years on the team. Many of the people that I eventually got to work with were the ones sitting around me during the entrance exam the multiple years that I didn't get an invitation to the team. Yet, I believe that it was this experience that had helped me through the practices.

When I entered the practice room for the first time, I wasn't surprised that there were many problems that I had no idea how to do. I was also not surprised by the fact that the other people were breezing through the early problems of the problems sets. It was the structure of the team that I valued in the practices. Being the weakest member of the team also meant that I had the most that I could learn from other people. By asking my squad mates, I slowly gathered more knowledge and caught up to everyone else.

A team is only as strong as its weakest link and I'd like to think that the ARML competition knows this. The multiple collaborative forms of competition force the individual activity of mathematics into something greater. By relying on each other, every single one of the ARML teams were able to achieve much more than the summation of 15 individual efforts.

Thank you Dr. David and Dr. Monks for the opportunity of a lifetime. Your dedication to the team is what made it the Lehigh ARML team instead of just a group of kids who liked to do math.





PRANAV GARIMIDI

I remember first hearing about the ARML team from my friends at school. I had just moved from a small town in Indiana where there wasn't even a mention of math competitions. Then suddenly there was this place where students from all over came together to join in their passion for math. I knew I wanted in and started studying to get in. On my first attempt in 9th grade, I didn't make the cut. However, that didn't deter me. I continued working at my math skills and joined the team the next year.

I remember getting the email inviting me to the team and being excited to finally join my friends on their weekly math trips. Once I was there, I joined a community of tons of people interested in math for the sake of it. Whether it was putting our heads together for the power round or checking each others' answers in the team round, it felt great to be doing math as part of a team. While other parts of math feel like a solo effort, in ARML you knew you were truly part of groups that was doing math together. Collaboration and communication was just as important as your individual skills in making your team succeed. ARML gave me the platform to improve in these areas and become a more well rounded mathematician.

Beyond the skills, ARML gave me experiences I will never forget. Messing around with my teammates before practice, getting ice cream at Penn State, or just bonding over long drives are just a few of the memories I have being part of the Lehigh team. Growing alongside my teammates, both in math and in life, has been a blast and has created lasting friendships.

While I continue towards the next steps of my life, I am sure that I will never forget the lessons I learned through ARML. Thank you Dr.Davis, Dr.Monks, and all the parents who made Lehigh ARML possible. Without you all, I wouldn't have any of these experiences that were such a key part of my high school journey. I hope future generations of students can enjoy ARML just as much as I did.





RICHARD LI

When I was in 6th grade, my brother started disappearing every Sunday to “armull”. What was at first just a strange jumble of syllables, however, would soon turn into one of the most memorable parts of my 8th–12th grade years.

In my first year (and all other years) on the team, I would carpool with other students who lived near me. For the first time, I was working together with many of the students I had competed against in MathCounts. Seeing so many kids who were passionate about mathematics just as I was motivated me to continue honing my math competition skills.

While it seemed like there were never two years in which I was working with the exact same people, one thing that stayed constant was everyone’s dedication and shared love of mathematics. From carpool rides to Lehigh to bus rides to Penn State to lemonade and pizza every Sunday, I’ll carry my ARML memories for years.

Although this year’s practices and competition might not have taken place, I’ve taken some extra time to reflect on and reminisce about my five great years of ARML. While I might not be able to walk to Big Bowl Noodle house or Berkey creamery with them again, the connections I’ve made through ARML are ones I’m certain I will keep and cherish.

I’d like to thank Coach Monks and Coach Davis for their continued commitment to ARML. Without you, hundreds of young mathematicians, myself included, would not have had this profoundly impactful experience throughout their middle and high school years. And to all of the parents who have also devoted many Sundays to supporting Lehigh ARML, thank you—your support of the team has ensured that all of us have had an overwhelmingly positive experience throughout the years.





SREEKAR MADABUSHI

When I was in 8th grade, I took the Lehigh Valley Math Contest for the first time. I wasn't very confident about my abilities, and sure enough, I didn't make it to the team. However, even in the two hours that I spent at Lehigh, I had the opportunity to meet some of the people that I would spend the next four years at Lehigh with. I retook the test again in my freshman year of high school and I made the team and was incredibly excited to have finally accomplished this goal. Being a part of the Lehigh Valley ARML Team for the past four years was a better experience than I could have ever imagined. Connecting with other competitive mathematicians, practicing every Sunday, and traveling to Penn State every year, were just part of what made Lehigh so memorable.

No matter what team I was on, I experienced the camaraderie and friendship that makes Lehigh Valley unique. The interactive problem-solving within squads during practice helped reinforce many of these ideals and made Lehigh incredibly fun. This was a part of the reason I continued coming back over the past few years, not to mention the exciting math concepts that I learned. Beyond the friendships I made, Lehigh Valley also helped me develop my math skills. My mathematics undoubtedly improved over the course of the past few years, and I learned new techniques and skills that will continue to help me over the course of my mathematics career.

I just want to say a few words about all the great people I had the chance to meet over the past few years. All of you are what made Lehigh a great experience. Between the hour-long car rides and three-hour practices, I have been able to get to know all of you very well, and we have become great friends. Being in a group of incredibly talented mathematics students has given me a way to explore friendships in a common academic context while motivating me to become a better mathematician. The great experiences we have shared at Lehigh will be some that I remember for a long time to come.

Lastly, I'd like to thank Dr. Davis and Coach Monks for everything they've done for our team. The Lehigh Valley Math Team wouldn't be what it is without them and since the Lehigh team first started, they've inspired generations of mathematicians to continue pursuing the subject. As I continue to college, at Georgia Tech, I will remember all the great experiences I had at Lehigh over the past four years.

