

# The BSM Beat

**Alumni newsletter for the BSM program**

## **Math and More Conference! A Joint Undergraduate Math Conference and BSM Reunion Event**

The first ever "in country" BSM Reunion will be held on October 3rd at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota! The Math and More conference will be an undergraduate math conference with all keynote speakers and panelists who are BSM alumni, followed by a BSM Reunion dinner for those participants who attended the BSM program (families are welcome!).

The conference will begin with registration, coffee and light refreshments from 9:15-10:00 a.m. From 10:00-11:00 a.m. we will have the pleasure of hearing our morning keynote speaker, BSM Alum Erika Franklin Fowler. Erika earned a BA in mathematics and political science from St. Olaf College and earned her Ph.D. in political science from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. She will be speaking about "Loose Cannons or Loyal Foot Soldiers? Assessing Interest Group Influence in the New Era of Campaign Finance".

Following the morning keynote speaker, we will have multiple parallel student talk sessions. Each session will feature four 15-minute talks given by undergraduate students. All students may apply to give a talk and we particularly encourage freshmen and sopho-

more students to speak. The student speaker registration deadline is September 25th!

A free lunch will be provided to all conference participants and following lunch we will have a career panel featuring all BSM alumni. The panel discussion will be followed by our afternoon keynote speaker, Jim Larson of Google. Jim graduated from St. Olaf College in 1990 with a BA in Mathematics. He earned an MS in Mathematics from Claremont Graduate School in 1993 and an MS in Computer Science from the University of Oregon in 1995. He will be speaking about "Math and a Career in Computing".

Refreshments will be provided following the afternoon keynote speaker and the conference will end at that time. From 5:00-7:00 p.m. the BSM Reunion dinner will take place on the St. Olaf campus. The dinner is open to all BSM participants and their families. Following dinner, Dr. Paul Humke, former North American Director of the BSM program, will speak about "The History of BSM".

For more information and to register for the conference, please go to [www.budapestsemesters.com/2015-math-and-more-conference](http://www.budapestsemesters.com/2015-math-and-more-conference).

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## Fall Semester 2015

- Students arrive for language intensive course: August 16th
- Orientation and welcome party: September 7th
- Classes begin: September 7th
- Putnam Exam: December 5th
- Classes end: December 14
- Final exams: December 14-16

## Student Spotlight: Nathan Mankovich, Fall 2015

Nathan Mankovich was born in Boulder, Colorado and is currently a junior at Colorado College. He heard about the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics program through his department and since he was looking to push his boundaries both culturally and academically it seemed like the perfect fit for him! He has found that not many people have the opportunity to study abroad in Budapest and that many of the courses offered through BSM are not available at Colorado College.

Nathan originally decided to become a math major because of the faculty

at Colorado College, who he describes as super supportive and who he says have gotten him really psyched about thinking critically to solve complex problems. His favorite math classes so far have been Number Theory and an independent study in Partial Differential Equations. He says that Number Theory taught him how to formally prove something, which he likes.

At Colorado College, Nathan is also involved in SIAM (the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics), the peer tutoring center and the GIS computer lab.

Nathan has travelled

abroad before as he spent a year in Patagonia taking a National Outdoor Leadership Course the year after he graduated from high school. He is particularly looking forward to exploring Budapest and learning new math!

Outside of his studies in mathematics, Nathan particularly enjoys rock climbing, running and ultimate Frisbee. He wants all students to know that if they want to go rock climbing, they should contact him!

### What's happening in Budapest in the Fall 2015 Semester?

- 78 students will attend the program
  - 24 seniors
  - 50 juniors
  - 2 sophomore
  - 2 post-graduate
- Students from 45 different schools
- Students from 24 states and 11 countries
  - 27 female students, 51 male students
  - There are 56 math majors, 11 math and computer science majors, 6 math and economics major, 2 math and statistics majors, 2 math and chemistry majors and 1 physics major.
  - 4 of the students are of Hungarian heritage
  - Our students are volunteers and help others! One volunteered in Haiti, one volunteered on an organic farm in northern Norway for one summer and one volunteered for Uplift Humanity in India.
  - Many students are involved in the arts through music or theater and one student is on their college rowing team.

## New BSM Fulbright Opportunity!

The Budapest Semesters in Mathematics program is now partnering with the Fulbright program to offer several exciting new opportunities for both faculty and students!

**Faculty** - The faculty Fulbright-BSM Fellowship will be a program awarding two grants per year, each up to a semester long (we anticipate one for fall and one for spring). Awardees would receive the usual Fulbright stipend, travel and living expenses. Awardees would be hosted jointly by BSM and the Renyi Institute. For the BSM part of the program, awardees would give colloquium lectures, host office hours at College International and be available to discuss graduate school opportunities with BSM students. At the Renyi Institute, participants would be introduced to the appropriate research groups and be apprised of the events of the institute. Applicants to the Fulbright program should mention their desire to combine research and BSM activities in their applications and to discuss their program with the BSM North American Director prior to the application deadline. Please contact North American Director Tina Garrett (garrettk@stolaf.edu) for more information.

**Student** - The student Fulbright fellowship will be made annually for a post-undergraduate student to study at the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics program for a full year. This program is designed for the undergraduate student who desires to strengthen their credentials for graduate work before entering graduate school. It is anticipated that applicants may come from smaller state universities or smaller colleges where the mathematics program is not sufficiently robust to provide a strong background for graduate work. The Fulbright organization will provide full services and funding for the year-long stay in Budapest and the BSM program will waive tuition for that period. This is a wonderful opportunity for talented students who have begun their careers at a place with fewer opportunities for math majors than large research institutions. Applicants should mention their specific interest in the BSM program in their application to the Fulbright program and should have applied to BSM prior to the Fulbright deadline.

## BSM Director's Mathematician in Residence (DMiR) Program

After many years of having faculty ask us if they could please participate in the Budapest program somehow, we are happy to be able to announce the formation of a new program for faculty!

**Program** - The BSM Director's Mathematician in Residence Program (DMiR) provides US-based mathematics faculty the opportunity to spend 3-4 weeks in residence in Budapest in order to conduct individual or collaborative research projects, interact with BSM students and collaborate with Hungarian mathematicians.

DMiR Scholars will be provided with financial support to travel to and reside in Budapest during the program, office space, internet and library resources, and basic language instruction. DMiR Scholars would hold office hours for BSM summer students (to discuss careers in mathematics, discuss research problems and ideas, etc.), interact socially with students and other DMiR Scholars and give a short lecture series for students on their area of research.

Applications for up to 4 Scholar positions with residences beginning in July 2017 will be accepted beginning in November 2016. Joint applications from research pairs (collaborators on the same research project) are welcomed. Scholar awards will be announced at the Joint Meetings in 2017. For more information, contact BSM North American Director Tina Garrett (garrettk@stolaf.edu) or stop by the BSM table at the Exhibits at the Joint Meetings. Check the Joint Meetings schedule for an Information Session about this program as well!

## Budapest Semesters in Mathematics

Budapest Semesters in  
Mathematics

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**Have you updated  
your alumni contact  
information lately?  
Do so today!**

The BSM organization would like to keep in touch with all of our alumni. If you move or your contact information changes, please contact us to update your information so we may continue to send you the BSM Beat and keep you informed about upcoming alumni reunion events. You will find an information update form on our website, [www.budapestsemesters.com](http://www.budapestsemesters.com), under the Alumni heading or you may contact us in any of the following ways:

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## Opportunities for BSM Alumni

BSM Alumni, we would like to encourage you to share your experiences with the Budapest program with others, particularly those of you who continue to work in higher education. If you are currently a math professor, and if you are interested in giving a talk to the math majors at your institution about the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics program, we have a complete PowerPoint presentation already put together that we would be happy to share with you.

In addition, if you are a graduate student or a math professor who will be attending a Regional Undergraduate Mathematics Conference and would be interested in being on a panel about academic or summer opportunities for math majors or would be willing to sit at a table and hand out brochures and talk to undergraduates about your experience with BSM, please let us know. We would

be happy to help you make contact with the RUMC organizers, provide you with brochures and handouts and we can also provide you with a small stipend to reimburse you for travel expenses.

To request the BSM PowerPoint or to inquire about representing the BSM program at an undergraduate math conference, contact Dr. Kendra Killpatrick at

[Kendra.Killpatrick@pepperdine.edu](mailto:Kendra.Killpatrick@pepperdine.edu).

If you have further ideas about ways in which you can share information about the Budapest program with undergraduates, feel free to contact us and we will help you in whatever ways we can! You, the alumni, are our most valuable resource for recruiting the next group of talented BSM students.

## BSM Alumni Directory

The BSM Alumni Directory will be emailed once a year to all alumni who have given us a current email address. If you haven't updated your contact information, you can do so now by going to the webpage and clicking on Update Your Contact Info. Please encourage other BSM alumni you may know to fill out the form so we can make the directory as up to date as possible!

