BSM
Budapest Semesters in Mathematics

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The BSM Beat
Alumni newsletter for the BSM program

The Director's Mathematician in Residence Program (DMiR) is now open!

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 weeks in residence in Budapest in order to conduct individual or collaborative research projects, interact with BSM students and collaborate with Hungarian mathematicians.

The program for 2017 will run from June 19-July 7 and will give faculty the unique opportunity for professional development, networking and collaboration with renowned Hungarian mathematicians while gaining valuable international experience. Participants will also gain a firsthand look at the BSM program and all it offers to undergraduate students.

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 be expected to be available two to three hours a week to BSM summer students (to discuss careers in mathematics, discuss research problems and ideas, etc.), to interact socially with students and other DMiR Scholars and to give a short lecture series for students on their area of research.

Applications for residences beginning in July 2017 will be accepted until December 1, 2016. Joint applications from research pairs (collaborators on the same research project) are welcomed. Application components include a one-page application form, a Research Project Statement outling individual or joint project plan, applicants CV and references. For more information, contact BSM North American Director Tina Garrett (garrettk@stolaf.edu).

Fall Semester 2016

- Students arrive for language intensive course: August 19th

- Orientation and welcome party: September 5th

- Classes begin: September 5th

- Putnam Exam: December 3rd

- Classes end: December 9

- Final exams: December 12-14

Student Spotlight: Lauren Schlesinger, Fall 2016

Laura was born in China and adopted as a baby to her family in Madison, WI. She is starting her junior year at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Laura learned about the BSM program when she picked up a brochure at the Midwest Undergraduate Mathematics Symposium during her freshman year and knew immediately that this was the program for her because of the reputation, rigor and location of the program. She had always wanted to explore Europe and was looking to challenge herself with math.

Laura began college as a music major, but when she arrived at Coe College she didn't want to take any of the music classes. Instead she took Calculus 3 her first semester and was invited to take part in the Lindsay Seminar, a program at Coe that introduces freshmen to pure and current research topics in math. What convinced her to become a math major was the realization that there existed a large diversity in the kinds of math she could study and that there was a global community of individuals who loved these topics and worked to understand them every day.

Laura's favorite math class so far as been linear algebra. This is the class where she started applying her proof-writing skills and she really loved vector spaces since they are so abstract yet at the same time one can concretely predict so much of their behavior.

While at Coe College, Laura has helped found the Rock Climbing Club and Scholars Leadership Council. She is an officer in the math club, she plays viola in the orchestra and she is a Coe-hort Mentor (a peer-to-peer mentor for students of racial and ethnic minorities).

Laura is lucky enough to have traveled to Guatemala, Belize, England, Vietnam, China and Canada, mostly for educational programs in high school and college. She is very excited to take advantage of the cultural opportunities in Budapest, like the opera and theatre, as well as enjoying the beautiful architecture. She is most excited about making friends with other students from around the world who are as passionate as she is about math and travel.

Laura is thinking about graduate school in a math related field once she graduates college, but is also thinking about taking some time to volunteer for the Peace Corps or similar program. In her free time, she likes reading, knitting, crocheting, rock climbing, biking and drinking coffee. She can't wait to get to Budapest and meet her new classmates!

What's happening in Budapest in the Fall 2016 Semester?

- 73 students will attend the program
    - 20 seniors
    - 50 juniors
    - 3 post-graduate
- Students from 46 different schools
- Students from 9 countries
- 20 female students, 53 male students
- There are 40 math majors, 15 math and computer science majors, 8 math and physics majors, 4 math and economics majors, 4 math and music majors, and 2 math and philosophy majors,
- Two students have great grandparents who are Hungarian, 1 student has a Hungarian grandfather and 1 student has a Hungarian grandmother
- One student currently works at the University of Chicago Crime Lab using statistics and analytics to attack Chicago's youth violence problems
- One student spent last summer teaching Arabic to high school students

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 up to 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. You can also find information at:

www.budapestsemesters.com/fulbright-u-s-student-program/.

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.

Student Spotlight: McKenna Davis, Fall 2016

McKenna Davis was born in Mesa, Arizona and is entering her junior year at Rhodes College in Memphis, TN. During her freshman year at Rhodes, McKenna took a course in proof writing with her favorite professor, Professor Eric Gottlieb, and he suggested the BSM program to her. After exploring the BSM website, she realized that the program offers exactly the cultural and academic experiences that she hoped to find abroad.

McKenna has loved math since she was a little kid. She can still remember her dad giving her simple equations to solve for fun on plane rides before she was even in kindergarten. She decided to major in math during her freshman year of high school when she took Calculus. She loved the course and knew math was something she wanted to work with all of her life. Her favorite math class so far was Transition to Advanced Mathematics. She loved being given a challenging question and learning the tools and tactics necessary to answer it. She also enjoyed abstract algebra as it was the most challenging course she has taken to date.

At Rhodes, McKenna is a member of the varsity women's lacrosse team, the Society of Physics Students and Alpha Omicron Pi women's fraternity. She is looking forward to volunteering with Hungarian relief organizations aiding refugees, exploring Hungarian cuisine, and spending time studying on the banks of the Danube while in Budapest!

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, under the Alumni heading or you may contact us in any of the following ways:

- Email: Kendra.Killpatrick@pepperdine.edu
        OR budapestsemesters@gmail.com

- Facebook group: BSM Forever

- Webpage: www.budapestsemesters.com

- Phone: 310-506-7796

- Mail: Kendra Killpatrick
        Associate Director, BSM
        24255 Pacific Coast Hwy
        Malibu, CA 90263-4321

Opportunities for BSM Alumni

BSM Alumni Directory

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 Power-Point or to inquire about representing the BSM program at an undergraduate math conference, contact Dr. Kendra Killpatrick at

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.

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!