

Undergraduate Mathematics Conferences

Application for Funding

Supported by grant DMS-0241090 from the National Science Foundation.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 15 May 2004

(Applications will be taken continuously throughout the period of the Grant.)

FOR CONFERENCE DATES: 1 September 2004 through 1 July 2005

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Send your completed application as a Word, RTF or PDF attachment to an e-mail to:

Pearson@MAA.org

2. In the subject line of your e-mail message returning the application, please write: NSF-RUMC Application.

3. Be sure to put your name at the top of each page in your responses to Parts I, II, and III.

4. The application package must include a letter from your department chair or other appropriate institutional administrator indicating their support of the project.

5. Do NOT exceed indicated page limits.

6. Use nothing smaller than 12 point type.

Summary of Grant Information

The purpose of this grant is to provide support for institutions or groups of institutions that wish to initiate or expand undergraduate mathematics conferences. The grant proposal covering these awards runs from 1 September 2004 until 1 July 2005, but is expected to be extended through the academic year 2005-2006. Proposals for the current period are being solicited with this notice.

The conferences that this grant supports are expected to be continuing conferences, at least on a biannual basis, so all applicants for funding, particularly those for new conferences, should indicate how the conference will be supported after the expiration of the grant.

The granting procedure is through a simple application form administered by the MAA. Conferences may assume any format that accomplishes the primary object of the grant, which is to provide undergraduate students the opportunity to present mathematical results and to better expand their knowledge of the wide range of theory, history, and applications of the mathematics sciences.

The requests for funding will be reviewed at the annual winter and summer meetings of the MAA, as well as electronically throughout the year. It is anticipated that most awards will be between \$1,000 and \$4,000, but smaller and larger requests will be considered.

The awards are intended to cover a portion of the typical expenses involved with hosting the conference. These include travel expenses and honoraria for invited speakers, lunch and refreshments for participants, and duplicating and postage for advertising. The awards might also cover expenses that are often part of an undergraduate conference such as travel reimbursement for participants. Indirect costs to institutions hosting the conferences and support for faculty organizing the conference are not permitted.

Applicants for funding should detail all sources of funding because preference will be given to conferences that maximize the likely value of the experience that students receive relative to the grant expenditure. It is important that the following numbers are included in the proposals: number of attending schools, number of student speakers, total attendance, and total student attendance.

Established conferences requesting grants should detail how the awarding of this grant will improve the effectiveness of the conference for the students who attend. The grant is not intended to be used replace funding from traditional sources, but awards could be used to introduce supplemental services to benefit the participants.

UNDERGRADUATE MATHEMATICS CONFERENCE
GRANT APPLICATION

PART I: Conference Director Information

NAME: Angela Spalsbury

TITLE: Assistant Professor

INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION, ACADEMIC RANK, CONTACT INFORMATION INCLUDING OFFICE TELEPHONE, FAX, & E-MAIL:

Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Youngstown State University
Youngstown, OH 44555
330 941 1803
330 941 2170 (fax)
angie@math.yzu.edu

HOME ADDRESS, TELEPHONE, E-MAIL:

ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS: (Degrees received, institutions, fields, and dates)

BS, Kent State University, Mathematics, 1989
MA, Kent State University, Mathematics, 1991
MS, University of Pretoria, Mathematics, 1992
Ph.D., Kent State University, Mathematics, 1996

By my signature, I certify that to the best of my knowledge the information provided in all parts of my application is accurate and complete.

Signature Angela Spalsbury Date May 12, 2004

Angela Spalsbury

Part II: Structure of the Conference

Dates of Conference:

Next year's Youngstown State University's Regional Pi Mu Epsilon Undergraduate Mathematics Conference will take place on February 19, 2005. This will be the 7th annual conference.

Tentative schedule:

Saturday, February 19, 2005:

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Coffee, juice, and donuts

10:30-12:30, Student presentations

12:30-1:10: Lunch

1:10-2:45, Student presentations

3:00-3:15 Closing and final remarks

Participating Schools:

We hope to continue to have participants from the following schools in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia:

In Ohio:

Ashland University, Baldwin Wallace College, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland State University, College of Wooster, Hiram College, John Carroll University, Kent State University, Kent State University at Tuscarawas, Kenyon College, Mount Union College, and University of Akron.

In Pennsylvania:

Allegheny College, Carnegie-Mellon, Clarion College, Duquesne University, Edinboro College, Penn State at Shenango, University of Pittsburgh, Slippery Rock College, Westminster College.

In West Virginia:

Fairmount State University

Angela Spalsbury

Our goal is to encourage participation from the following institutions in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia (all within a 2-3 hour drive of Youngstown State University).

In Ohio:

Antioch, Cuyahoga Community College, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Jefferson Community College, Kent State University at East Liverpool, Salem Trumbull, and Stark, Lake Erie Community College, Lorain Community College, Malone College, Oberlin College, Ohio State at Mansfield, Ursuline College, and Walsh College.

In Pennsylvania:

Butler County Community College, Carlow College, Community College of Allegheny County, Chatham College, Gannon College, Geneva, Grove City College, LaRouche College, Mercyhurst College, Penn State at Behrend, DuBois, Monaca, and New Kensington, Point Park College, Robert Morris College, Seton Hill College, St Francis College, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and Greensburg, Thiel College, Waynesburg College.

In West Virginia:

Bethany, Wheeling Jesuit College

Conference Data:

Here is some information about the conferences for the past several years:

Number of Students attending:

2000: 67 students

2001: 78 students

2002: 113 students

2004: 101 (97 undergraduates, 4 graduate students)

Number of student presentations:

2000: 29

2001: 23

2002: 43

2004: 35

Number of faculty:

2004: 27

Number of institutions:

2003: 9

2004: 14

We hope to continue to increase the number of student attendees and presenters.

Angela Spalsbury

Publicity:

In the past we published only electronically. To increase attendance, this year (2004) we sent fliers announcing the conference to all colleges within a radius of about 150 miles. We also advertised in the school newspaper. In 2005, we intend to send out fliers and announcements to more schools and to advertise in the city paper. We will continue to put announcements on the web pages of Youngstown State University and Pi Mu Epsilon. We will mention the conference in the Newsletter of the Ohio Section of the MAA, and we will send e-mails to all department chairs in the region.

Support Personnel:

We have been running the conference with the help of student members of Youngstown State University Pi Mu Epsilon and faculty and staff members from the Youngstown State University Mathematics and Statistics Department. Several faculty members regularly attend both the Ohio Section of the MAA regional meetings as well as the summer MAA-PME meeting (Mathfest). They all have a lot of experience in directing student mathematical research presentations.

Improvements Provided by Grant:

The primary purpose for applying for a grant is to provide money to pay for travel costs for students coming from other schools and to pay for subsistence for all the participants. Having this money makes it easier and more enjoyable for students to attend, and would thus increase the number of students and student speakers in attendance. Increasing student numbers would have several benefits. It would provide the opportunity for more interaction with students from other schools. It would also increase the number of student presentations. It would enable more students to enjoy mathematics with their contemporaries and to meet students from a variety of different institutions.

It would also increase participation in national competitions such as the Putnam Exam and COMAP mathematical modeling competition since we always have student presentations on these contests. Similarly, it would also increase awareness of REU's and Summer Internships.

Finally, we wish to show faculty and students from community colleges the types of applications of mathematics found in a traditional undergraduate curriculum. We also wish to attract local high school teachers that are teaching students who hope to become mathematics majors.

Angela Spalsbury

Part III: Financial Information

We are requesting a total of \$1500 from this grant.

This amount is based on the costs of the 2004 conference and estimating future expenses as outlined below.

We have received generous funding in 2004 from NSF Grant DMS-0241090. We spent just over \$1200 for our 2004 conference. This amount included travel for 8 vehicles driving to Youngstown (approximately \$385) as well as subsistence of breakfast and lunch for all participants (approximately \$445). We also incurred office expenses (approximately \$130) and miscellaneous expenses of parking, advertising, and security (approximately \$260).

Our estimated budget for 2005 is as follows:

YSU-PME Regional Conference 2005 Budget			
Estimated Expenses			
Travel	\$50 per school	10 schools	500
Subsistence	\$5 per student	115 students	575
Office Expenses	Name Tags		
	Paper		
	Card Stock		
	Postage		200
Other Expenses	Parking: 30 cars@\$4	96	
	Newspaper Ads	50	
	Security	150	296
			Grand Total 1571

The remaining costs will be shared by YSU Department of Mathematics and Statistics. The department will also provide support personnel (secretaries) to help with the mailings and other administrative tasks.

Michael Pearson
Mathematical Association of America
1529 Eighteenth Street NS
Washington DC 20036

May 12, 2004

Dear Mr. Pearson,

I would like to support the application of Angela Spalsbury requesting funding for our Pi Mu Epsilon Regional Mathematics Conference.

Let me first say a few words about the director of our conference. Angela Spalsbury is an outstanding teacher who challenges her students. Angela's work with our COMAP teams is quite impressive. Under her direction and guidance, our student participants in the COMAP International Mathematical Modeling Competition soared to new levels of excellence. Angela is also the advisor for our Pi Mu Epsilon group. As such, she helps them prepare to give presentations at regional and national conferences. During the past two summers, Angela helped to prepare and accompanied 7 math majors to Burlington, Vermont and 9 students to Boulder, Colorado to the summer MAA/PME conferences. In Burlington, our students won 3 of the 8 prizes given at the Pi Mu Epsilon portion of the conference. In Boulder, they won 2 prizes. Angela's commitment to the students of YSU and their subsequent success is quite noteworthy!

With support from the MAA, Angela directed our annual Pi Mu Epsilon undergraduate student conference. I estimate that nearly 100 students and faculty from universities located in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia participated in the conference. The Pi Mu Epsilon Regional Conference is wonderful. Students throughout the region greatly benefit by preparing and presenting their research results. Of course, each student also benefits from the experience of listening to the other presentations. We are very proud of our conference and rely on Angela Spalsbury to organize it each year. Please give her the assistance she needs to continue this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Nathan P. Ritchey, Ph.D.
Department Chair