

# The BSM Beat

Alumni newsletter for the BSM program

## Eileen Shimota, BSM Program Administrator

Eileen Shimota was born in Minnesota and, despite thinking that she would live on the East Coast someday, has planted her roots in Minnesota. Her husband Charles is a farmer on their beef cattle ranch, which was previously owned by his parents and his grandparents. He is also a maintenance manager at Scott Equipment Co. Their older daughter Emily, 18, will be attending St. Olaf College this fall pursuing interest in education, library science and German. Their younger daughter Abby, 15, will be a high school sophomore in the fall. Abby loves playing musical instruments, horses and the outdoors. She hopes to be an equine vet someday! Eileen and Charles celebrated with 23rd wedding anniversary this past summer and live in the country about 20 minutes from St. Olaf College.

Eileen attended Mankato State University for both her undergraduate and graduate degree. As an undergraduate, she majored in Communications and Public Relations and did her graduate work in Experiential Education. Eileen worked at St. Olaf College for 13 years in various positions in Admissions, the Sociology/Anthropology department, the Alumni Office and the Career Center before leaving for 4 years to work as a Career Consultant and a Communications Consultant. She realized how much she missed working



in higher education and was very excited to return to St. Olaf College as the BSM Program Administrator.

When asked what attracted her to working with BSM, Eileen said, "The thought of working for a prestigious study abroad program that focuses on mathematics in the beautiful city of Budapest was very appealing to me, especially since my academic path has always been in the social sciences and humanities." Although she says that the math world is a bit of a mystery for a non-math person like herself, the opportunity to work with both students and faculty who immerse themselves in numbers, problem solving and logic promised to be very interesting - and it has been! As a people person, Eileen's favorite part of the job is working with students, faculty, study abroad advisors, and the staff in Budapest. She loves having the opportunity to communicate with around 75 students a semester, each with different stories, but with a common interest: math.

Eileen's hobbies include spending time with her family, horseback riding, creative writing, long walks, and meeting and getting to know interesting people and different cultures. She loves the opportunity to learn! Eileen reads for knowledge (never fiction) and is a PBS and NPR fan. Her latest project has been reintroducing herself to mathematical concepts just for fun!

### Inside this issue:

Eileen Shimota, BSM Program Administrator	1
Student Spotlight: Lucas Colucci	2
Information about the Fall 2013 class	2
Update on the new summer program	3
Summer Student Spotlight: Cameron Wright	3
Opportunities for alumni	4

## Fall Semester 2013

- Students arrive for language intensive course:  
August 21st
- Orientation and welcome party:  
September 9th
- Classes begin:  
September 9th
- Putnam Exam:  
December 7th
- Classes end:  
December 13
- Final exams: De-  
cember 16-18

## Student Spotlight: Lucas Colucci: Spring 2013, Summer 2013 and the BSM Problem Solving Team

Lucas Colucci was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil and studies at the University of Sao Paulo. He is currently in his third year of undergraduate studies. He comes from a family of four - his mother is a doctor, his father works as a sales representative and his sister studies filmmaking.



Lucas received a scholarship from his university to study abroad for a semester and one of his professors suggested the Budapest program. After researching the program online, he decided he would love to study math in Budapest! In March, after greatly enjoying the first half of the spring semester, he decided to stay in Budapest for the inaugural summer program because he couldn't take all the classes he wanted to in the spring (he already had a full schedule!). By staying through the summer he could take additional classes and get to enjoy Budapest a little bit longer. In the spring he took seven (!) classes: Complex Functions, Analytical Number Theory, Additive Combinatorics, Extremal Combinatorics, Combinatorics of Finite Sets, Hungarian Language 2 and the Problem Solving Seminar. In the summer he took the undergraduate research option in hypergraphs

and Conjecture and Proof.

While it was difficult for Lucas to pick a favorite class, he loved the problem solving seminar because he is very interested in Olympiad-type problems and this course fit that description perfectly. He has also enjoyed the undergraduate research option this summer because for him it is the first time he is really working on a "real" research problem, which is very exciting!

Lucas did attend the intensive language program prior to the spring semester and thought it was a nice opportunity to start learning Hungarian and getting to know people. He currently lives in a studio apartment in Central Pest (district 5). Some of his favorite non-mathematical experiences during the program have been the many places he has been able to travel to, the expe-

rience of living by himself and the experience of bungee-jumping for the first time (at the Balaton Sound Festival).

Lucas has been selected to participate as a member of the BSM Problem Solving team at the International Mathematics Competition this summer. He feels like this is quite an honor and a big responsibility, but is excited about this unique opportunity and is hopeful that he can perform well at the competition for BSM.

After graduating, Lucas is definitely planning on going to graduate school, although he is not sure yet what branch of mathematics he will study. Besides math, Lucas plays the piano and is interested in classical music in general. He says "BSM is a great opportunity for many reasons: you get in touch with great mathematicians with very active research agendas, you live for a while in Budapest, which is a very cozy, but not too small city, you travel to many places around Hungary and Europe, you make friends from many places in the world and, hopefully, as in my case, you come back to your country with a renewed vision of mathematics and of the world in general." What a great summary of the BSM experience!

### What's happening in Budapest in the Fall 2013 Semester?

- 76 students will attend the program
  - 21 seniors
  - 51 juniors
  - 1 sophomore
  - 3 post-graduate
- Students from 47 different schools
- Students from 26 states and 7 countries
  - 30 female students, 46 male students
  - There are 37 math majors, 10 undeclared majors, 9 math and computer science majors, 5 math and physics majors, 4 math and economics major, 1 math and philosophy major, 1 math and French major, 1 math and bio-chemistry major, 1 math and art major, 1 math and psychology major, 2 math and music majors, 1 economics major and 2 physics majors.
- Many students share a genuine interest in the culture, history and traditions of Hungary. One student even used to do Hungarian folk dance!

## Update on the new Summer Program

The new summer Budapest Semesters in Mathematics program kicked off in the summer of 2013 with great success! We had 18 students attend the inaugural program, which ran from June 21-August 3. Of the 18 students, 10 were female and 8 were male. Students came from 15 different undergraduate institutions and represented 3 countries and 9 states. We had 2 students who had just graduated in Spring 2013, 9 rising seniors, 4 rising juniors and even 3 rising sopho-

mores! Of the 18 students, 8 are math majors, 1 is a math and political science major, 1 is a math and French major, 1 is a math and philosophy major, 1 is a math and economics major, 3 are math and physics majors and 3 are undeclared - what a diverse group!

The summer students had a two-day orientation which was then followed by the six week semester. The students had the option to take two of the following classes: Introductory Abstract Algebra, Combinatorics, Real

Functions and Measures, and Advanced Mathematical Problem Solving. All classes met two hours a day, four days a week. The students were all housed in apartments around the city. As an additional bonus, the students were in Budapest during the Erdos Centennial conference from July 1 - July 5 and were able to attend various talks and events as they fit into the students' schedules. All in all, the first summer program was a great success and we look forward to the second year next summer.

### Student Spotlight: Cameron Wright, BSM Summer 2013

Cameron Wright was born in Dallas, Texas and is beginning his sophomore year at Carleton College. He found out about the program from the Director, Dr. Tina Garrett, who is located at St. Olaf College, just across town from Carleton. Carleton has a rich history of sending many students to the BSM program so Cameron received lots of information about it. Cameron ultimately decided to apply to the program because he feels that math is what he wants to do with his life and in order to make sure he is going to take as much math as he can.

Cameron took both Combinatorics and Algebra over

the summer, but says he prefers algebra to combinatorics because he is fond of the sort of set-based reasoning upon which algebra is built.

Along with several other summer BSM students, Cameron has had an awful lot of opportunities to explore Budapest, both Buda and Pest, and says the sights have been fantastic! The Buda castle is a particular favorite of his, but he says that honestly, he thinks the ruin pubs could be his favorite aspect about the city.

As of now, Cameron is planning to go to graduate school and pursue further study in mathematics, but that

is only a tentative plan. He figures he can afford to be a bit indecisive at the moment since he has another two years before he has to start applying to graduate schools and three years before he actually graduates.

Cameron's non-math hobbies include rock climbing, kickboxing, dancing and choreographing, but he has also been trying to get into something called contact staff spinning.



## **Budapest Semesters in Mathematics**

Budapest Semesters in  
Mathematics

St. Olaf College  
1520 St. Olaf Avenue  
Northfield, MN 55057

**North American Director**  
Dr. Kristina Garrett  
garrettk@stolaf.edu

**Associate Director**  
Dr. Kendra Killpatrick  
Kendra.Killpatrick@  
pepperdine.edu

**Program Administrator**  
Eileen Shimota  
shimota@stolaf.edu

**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:

- Email: [Kendra.Killpatrick@pepperdine.edu](mailto:Kendra.Killpatrick@pepperdine.edu)  
OR [budapestsemesters@gmail.com](mailto:budapestsemesters@gmail.com)
- Facebook group: BSM Forever
- Webpage: [www.budapestsemesters.com](http://www.budapestsemesters.com)
- Phone: 310-506-7796
- Mail: Kendra Killpatrick  
Associate Director, BSM  
24255 Pacific Coast Hwy  
Malibu, CA 90263-4321

## **New 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!

