

The BSM Beat

Alumni newsletter for the BSM program

BSM 100/3 Reunion in Budapest Celebrating 1/3 of a Century!

In celebration of one third of a century of Budapest Semesters in Mathematics, the program will host an all-class reunion and conference for alumni and friends of BSM in Budapest, Hungary. Alumni, their families and all friends of BSM are welcome - please also encourage your mentors and recommenders to join the fun!

The conference will be held from Monday, June 25 through Sunday, July 1, 2018. You may register today—no deposit required! Click on "Sign Up" at www.bsmath.hu/reunion2018/. Signing up does not mean a commitment on your side, but it will help organizers as they make plans for next summer.

Whether you want to do some math in the familiar surroundings, (re)connect with fellow alumni or with alumni who owed their participation to your encouragement, explore the city and the country and see how much it has changed, or re-live and share with your family what many of you have described as a "life-transforming experience" - the

reunion program will cater to you! We expect most of your BSM professors and your always popular student coordinators will be on hand.

The BSM Reunion will be followed by a major combinatorics conference, "Building Bridges II - Laszlo Lovasz is 70" on July 2-6, 2018. This conference will celebrate the 70th birthday of Lovasz, whose contributions to discrete mathematics and the theory of algorithms have been fundamental to the discipline. The conference honoring Lovasz' achievements will be held at the Renyi Institute of Mathematics in Budapest and the program will consist primarily of invited lectures and poster sessions. Further information about the conference, including submission and registration deadlines, can be found at www.renyi.hu/conferences/1170.



Inside this issue:

BSM 100/3 Reunion and conference 1

Student Spotlight: Eva Loeser 2

Information about the Fall 2017 class 2

New joint program between BSM and the Fulbright organization 3

Student Spotlight: Joe McMahan 4

Opportunities for alumni 4

Fall Semester 2017

- Students arrive for language intensive course: August 16th
- Orientation and welcome party: September 4th
- Classes begin: September 4th
- Putnam Exam: December 2nd
- Classes end: December 8
- Final exams: December 11-13

Student Spotlight: Eva Loeser, Fall 2017

Eva was born in San Diego, California and currently is a senior at Brown University. She learned about BSM from two of her professors at Brown who attended as undergraduates and loved it. These faculty felt that learning math in a different country had given them important perspective and that meeting both students and professors from different places opened their eyes to new ways to view math. Eva also wanted to travel!

Eva has loved math since before she can remember and still loves it! She used to do math with her Dad starting when she was 5. She did math when she was bored, for school, for fun, anytime. She particularly likes her math classes when they are challenging and intense. She has enjoyed measure and integration theory because it was so much new material at once and it could be both highly intuitive in many ways and not at all

intuitive in other ways. She feels that this subject makes sense in a deep way and fits with how she understands the world.

Outside of the math classroom, Eva teaches sex education classes at a local middle school. She thinks it is important to teach young adults to understand sex and that it is okay to talk about it so they can make well-informed decisions about deeply personal matters.

Eva's family values travel so she has twice been to destinations in Europe along with the Galapagos Islands and the rainforests of Costa Rica. In the summer of 2016 she went out on a research vessel off the coast of Palau for 23 days with the Scripps Institute of Oceanography. She worked shifts from midnight to noon collecting data on the temporal and depth properties of the water temperature and salinity. The research group used this data

to understand turbulence, sheer layers and isopycnal movement.

In Hungary, she is particularly looking forward to learn about the culture and to hike around Lake Balaton. She is also interested in going to museums, the market, the libraries and trying all different kinds of food and wine. She will be taking the Hungarian language class to be able to communicate with people!

After graduation, Eva would like to pursue a Ph.D. in mathematics. Her other hobbies are reading - she particularly likes historical fiction and tends to read books about women. She likes mystery and adventure stories as well. Eva also really likes surfing, but hasn't gotten to do much of that lately while living in Providence.

What's happening in Budapest in the Fall 2017 Semester?

- 62 students will attend the program
 - 22 seniors
 - 38 juniors
 - 1 post-graduate
 - 1 sophomore
 - Students from 48 different schools
 - Students from 4 countries
 - 24 female students, 38 male students
 - There are 41 math majors, 9 math and computer science majors, 2 math and physics majors, 3 math and economics majors, 1 math and religion major, and 6 math and philosophy majors
 - One student spent the summer at a summer camp in Morocco studying Arabic
 - One student did very well in the 2013 International Math Olympiad
 - One student spent a month at the University of Ghana teaching electronics and programming to high school students
- What a great group of students BSM always seems to attract!

DMIR - Director's Mathematician in Residence Program

The BSM Director's Mathematician in Residence Program (DMiR) is conducted under the direction of the BSM North American office. The program is open to individual faculty members, as well as to research teams of two or more scholars applying jointly. Spend three weeks during the summer as the BSM Director's Mathematician in Residence in beautiful Budapest, and enjoy a unique opportunity for professional development, networking, and collaboration with renowned Hungarian mathematicians. Gain valuable international experience, as well as a firsthand look at the BSM program and all it offers to participating undergraduate students.

The program funds travel to Hungary and housing in Budapest. Office space, internet access, and a math library will be available. In addition to providing in-country support, local BSM staff will coordinate a social program including an orientation, city tour, and welcome banquet. Faculty members accepted to the program (DMiR scholars) will be expected to be available to BSM students two to three hours per week and to give a short lecture series, targeted to BSM students, on their research area. The next round of applications will be accepted during Fall 2017 for Summer 2018.

During the Summer of 2017, three faculty members joined the DMiR program.

Gizem Karaali is originally from Istanbul, Turkey, where she graduated with undergraduate degrees in electrical engineering and mathematics (Boğaziçi University, 1997). She earned her mathematics PhD at the University of California, Berkeley, in 2004. After a two-year postdoctoral position at the University of California, Santa Barbara, she moved on to Pomona College in 2006, where she is now an associate professor of mathematics.

Stephan Ramon Garcia grew up in San Jose, California before attending U.C. Berkeley for his B.A. and Ph.D. He worked at U.C. Santa Barbara for three years before moving to Pomona College in 2006. He is the author of several books and over seventy-five research articles in operator theory, complex analysis, matrix analysis, number theory, discrete geometry, and other fields.

Susan Martonosi is the Joseph B. Platt Professor for Teaching Effectiveness, Associate Professor of Mathematics, and Global Clinic Director at Harvey Mudd College. She began teaching at Harvey Mudd College in 2005. She earned a bachelor of science in operations research and industrial engineering from Cornell University and a PhD in operations research from MIT. Martonosi has an extensive background in the operations research field, which deals with the application of advanced analytical methods to help make better decisions.

Student Spotlight: Joe McMahon, Fall 2017

Joe McMahon was born in Austin, TX but lives in Houston and currently attends school at Georgia Institute of Technology. He learned about BSM from his advisor and is excited to be in Europe this fall on October 31st since it will be the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Joe decided to become a math major because he loves abstraction and logic. He thinks many people misunderstand math and dismiss it as being hard in high school so they never get exposed to the interesting areas.

Joe's favorite classes so far have been linear algebra and differential equations because he loves classes that are structured so that each lesson builds upon the previous one. He also feels that these classes provide the most useful skills to know from mathematics.

Outside of math, Joe is a part of the Georgia Tech water polo team and plays in tournaments every other weekend. Joe also plays some acoustic guitar, reads and slacklines (basically tightrope walking with climbing

webbing strung up between two trees). After graduation he plans on becoming a teacher because many high school math teachers don't seem to care too much about math and don't know the most interesting parts of math.

Joe knows how to solve a 3x3 and a 5x5 Rubik's cube, but has forgotten some of the algorithms for solving the 4x4. Joe also claims that Texas is the best state in the US!

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, 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.

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!

