

# The Young Mathematicians' Network Continues to Thrive

This summer, the Young Mathematicians' Network (YMN) will celebrate its second anniversary. This brief note will describe what the YMN is, how it works, and what its aims are.

The YMN is a loosely organized confederation of mathematicians who in some way consider themselves "young". Our working definition of "young" has included graduate students, non-tenured faculty members, and mathematicians in entry-level positions in industry; but our membership list is made up of mathematicians at all stages of their careers.

Our common bond is a desire to help each other succeed as mathematicians. Our primary purpose is to function as an informational resource and support group for new and recent mathematics Ph.D.s searching for employment: academic, governmental, or industrial. The network also provides information useful to persons beginning a mathematical career on such topics as writing grant proposals, maintaining a research program, publishing and refereeing articles, and meeting tenure requirements. Finally, it attempts to keep the greater mathematics community informed of, and responsive to, the concerns of young mathematicians.

Members of the YMN receive a weekly electronic newsletter by e-mail, *Concerns of Young Mathematicians*. The newsletter features informational and editorial articles written by other mathematicians, and often an article leads to submissions by other YMN members the following week. Members of the YMN have said that information in the newsletter has helped them on job searches and with starting their careers. The newsletter also helps us appreciate that many young mathematicians are facing the same challenges at this time.

The YMN has been active in other ways. We have organized panel discussions at professional meetings, written letters and articles for various publications; and YMN members have been candidates in AMS elections. The network played a role in the adoption by the AMS, the AWM, and the MAA of the resolution *Supportive Practices and Ethics in the Employment of Young Mathematicians* (which originated in the AMS Policy Committee on the Profession). A project under way is to improve the availability of childcare at professional meetings (see the FYI section, this issue of the *Notices*). Through all of these activities, we believe that the YMN is helping people become more productive mathematicians.

The YMN is loosely administered by the YMN Board, a group of nearly two dozen young mathematicians which includes graduate students, junior faculty, mathematicians in government, some who are unemployed, and a handful of other publishing professionals. Each month, a different member of the YMN Board is the editor of our newsletter. Anyone who volunteers to join the YMN Board is welcome.

The YMN is organized over the Internet, and there are no dues to join. We have close to 1,500 members at this point, and that number continues to grow. To become a member of the YMN, send e-mail to Charles Yeomans <P>cyeo-mans@ms.uky.edu>. The YMN will organize sessions for young mathematicians at the Joint Mathematics Meetings this January in Orlando, Florida.

—YMN Board of Directors