Inside the AMS

AMS Epsilon Fund Makes Awards

The AMS Epsilon Fund, in its first year, awarded grants to seven summer mathematics programs that support and nurture mathematically talented high school students in the United States. The awards are for summer 2000 activities and will support program expenses and student scholarships and, in some cases, scholarships only. The programs were chosen on the basis of mathematical excellence and enthusiasm by a selection committee chaired by Joel Spencer of the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University. Award amounts were governed by the varying financial needs of each program and totaled $75,000.

The seven programs chosen are: All Girls/All Math (University of Nebraska, Lincoln), Hampshire College Summer Studies in Mathematics, Mathcamp, PROMYS (Boston University), Ross Young Scholars Program (The Ohio State University), SWT Honors Summer Math Camp (Southwest Texas State University), and The University of Michigan Math Scholars.

Applications for funding for summer 2001 programs will be due **December 15, 2000**. Application materials will be available in late summer from the Professional Services Department, AMS, P. O. Box 6248, Providence, RI 02940. Interested program directors can call 800-321-4267, ext. 4105, or e-mail: `prof-serv@ams.org` to be placed on the mailing list.

—Diane M. Mack, AMS Professional Services Department

MR Lookup: Linking the Literature

Suppose you are looking through the bibliography of an article on the Web and you find an article that interests you. In the future, when all papers are electronic, you should be able to click on the reference and instantly arrive at the interesting paper. But in today's world you will likely scribble the reference on a scrap of paper and either head off for the library or try to navigate to the paper on the Web.

Electronic publishing offers the possibility of creating an interconnected web of mathematical literature in which one can click from one paper to another with ease. How-

ever, building that web is a formidable task. Journals are coming online steadily, and some already add links to some references. But there are hundreds of mathematics journals published by hundreds of publishers, and all provide links to their journal articles in different ways. It is an almost impossible task for a single publisher to add links to references using all these formats. And what happens when a publisher changes the mechanism (or simply changes the Web address of the journal)? What does an author or publisher do when a reference becomes available online after the referring paper is published?

MathSciNet can help to overcome these obstacles by acting as a way station in the literature. About 100,000 MathSciNet entries carry links to the original papers, and more links are constantly being added. When a reference is equipped with a link to its MathSciNet entry, the original paper is just two clicks away: one click to MathSciNet, and from there one click to the paper. The AMS has made available free of charge the MR Lookup tool to provide a convenient way of implementing these links. Soon even users without subscriptions to MathSciNet will be able to follow links in this way.

There are several advantages to using MathSciNet to provide links between papers. MR Lookup provides authors and publishers with an easy, consistent way of generating the information needed to link references to MathSciNet entries. This information provides an additional check on bibliographic data, which results in more consistent references. In case a paper is not available online, MathSciNet subscribers will be able to read the review. As older papers come online, the AMS will add links from MathSciNet to those papers without any action needed on the part of the original publishers.

The AMS hopes mathematicians will use MR Lookup to add links from references in the papers they write to the corresponding MathSciNet entries and will encourage publishers to include these links in electronic journals. In return the AMS pledges to continue to add links from MathSciNet entries to original papers whenever possible and to keep the links up to date.

To use MR Lookup, visit the Web site `http://www.ams.org/mrlookup/`. Information about MR Lookup is available at `http://www.ams.org/msnhtml/about_mr_lookup.html`.

—Allyn Jackson