Inside the AMS

Epsilon Awards for 2004

The AMS Epsilon Fund for Young Scholars was established in 1999 to provide financial assistance to summer programs for mathematically talented high school students in the United States. For many years these programs have provided mathematically talented youngsters with their first serious mathematical experiences. The name for the fund was chosen in remembrance of the late Paul Erdős, who was fond of calling children "epsilons".

The AMS has chosen eight summer mathematics programs to receive Epsilon grants for activities in the summer of 2004. The grants 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. Award amounts were governed by the varying financial needs of each program and totaled $80,000.

The programs receiving grants are: Ross Mathematics Program, The Ohio State University; Texas State University Honors Summer Math Camp; PROMYS, Boston University; Canada/USA Mathcamp, Mathematics Foundation of America; Hampshire College Summer Studies in Mathematics, Amherst, Massachusetts; All Girls/All Math, University of Nebraska; University of Chicago Young Scholars Program; and MathPath, MathPath Foundation.

The grants for summer 2004 are paid for by the AMS Epsilon Fund for Young Scholars (supplemented by the AMS Program Development Fund). The AMS is continuing to build the endowment for the Epsilon Fund, with a goal of raising $2 million through individual donations and grants. Once the Epsilon Fund endowment has reached the targeted amount, the AMS intends to award a total of $100,000 in Epsilon grants each year.

For further information about the Epsilon Fund for Young Scholars, visit the website `http://www.ams.org/giving-to-ams/`, or contact `development@ams.org`; telephone 800-321-4267, extension 4111, or 401-455-4111. Information about how to apply for Epsilon grants is available at `http://www.ams.org/outreach/epsilon.html`. A fairly comprehensive listing of summer programs for mathematically talented high school students (including those with and without Epsilon grants) is available at `http://www.ams.org/outreach/mathcamps.html`.

—Elaine Kehoe

New Award for Mathematics Departments

At its meeting in Phoenix in January 2004, the AMS Council approved a proposal to create a new annual award called the Prize for an Exemplary Program or Achievement by a Mathematics Department. The idea for such a prize came out of discussions of the Committee on the Profession.

The purpose of the prize is to give recognition to mathematics departments that have established unusual or particularly effective programs. Examples might be a notable program of outreach to minority students, an effective industrial internship program, or unusually successful recruitment of undergraduate mathematics majors. It is not the purpose of the prize to highlight the "best" mathematics departments judged on the basis of research by faculty. But some aspects of a department's research program could be recognized by the prize, such as innovations in providing research support for faculty and/or graduate students, or creation of an especially fertile environment for developing an aspect of mathematical research.

One of the goals in establishing the prize is to highlight outstanding programs that could be implemented elsewhere. Descriptions of the prize-winning departments and their programs will appear in the *Notices*. The prize will include a modest monetary award of $1,200, which is intended to provide coffee and cookies for a year's worth of departmental teatimes.

The first Prize for an Exemplary Program or Achievement by a mathematics department will be awarded at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in January 2006. Nominations are due by April 1, 2005. Any department in North America that offers at least a bachelor's degree in mathematics is eligible. Departments may nominate themselves for consideration. Further information on how to make a nomination will appear in an upcoming issue of the *Notices,* or contact the AMS secretary, Robert J. Daverman, at `secretary@ams.org`.

—Allyn Jackson