

Publisher's Editorial

Announcing the Doug Faires Award

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Introduction

COMAP is proud to announce the Doug Faires Award. The purpose of the award is to encourage and recognize efforts to start modeling teams at both the high school and college levels. COMAP wishes to encourage current faculty advisors to reach out, recruit, and mentor new faculty advisors at either the college or high school level, particularly local schools. The goal is to form local groups with a common interest in mathematical modeling.

We dedicate this award to Doug Faires, who provided us with the perfect example of the goals we wish to attain. First, a snapshot of Doug Faires:

About Doug Faires

Doug graduated from Sharpsville High School in Pennsylvania, class of 1959. He pursued an undergraduate degree at Youngstown State University, graduating in 1963, and left YSU to complete a Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of South Carolina before returning to YSU as a faculty member in 1969. He has been associated with Youngstown State University ever since, retiring as professor of mathematics in 2006.

During his tenure at YSU, Doug was the recipient of numerous awards, including the Outstanding College–University Teacher of Mathematics by the Ohio Section of the Mathematical Association of America and five Distinguished Faculty awards from Youngstown State University, which also awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Science in 2006. For nearly two decades, he was a member of the council of Pi Mu Epsilon National Mathematics Honorary Society, including a term as president. In addition, he

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was awarded the MacDuffee Award by Pi Mu Epsilon for lifetime service in 2005. Doug was a Co-Director of examinations for the American Mathematics Competitions for 8 years and has been a long-term judge for the COMAP Interdisciplinary Contest in Modeling (ICM)TM. He authored or co-authored more than 20 books, including 10 editions of the classic *Numerical Analysis* (Cengage Learning, 2015).

Dr. Faires, as he was known to his students, will be remembered not for his awards, but as a dedicated teacher. He was a master at getting the best out of those around him, encouraging them to recognize their own potential, and mentoring them to achievements far beyond their expectations. A tireless champion of undergraduate research in mathematics, Doug was a driving force behind the establishment in 2006 of the Center for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics at Youngstown State. Doug served first as a Faculty Advisor for the Mathematical Contest in ModelingTM (MCM). He gave talks to local high schools, inviting them to form modeling teams to compete in the HiMCMTM (COMAP's high school modeling contest). He recruited and mentored high school faculty advisors and invited the advisors and their teams to Youngstown State where the teams met one another, and the experienced members of the college teams mentored the high school students. Long-term bonds were formed, and each year college and high school teams were encouraged to participate in the modeling contests. Additionally, teams were given feedback by Doug and others after the contest was over. Later, Doug served as a Final Judge for the Mathematical Contest in Modeling, where he again was a true leader.

Our goal is to emulate Doug's success at the local level.

Award to Marie Vanisko

In the words of Marie Vanisko, a long-time supporter of both the MCM and the HiMCM:

I think this is a great idea and a wonderful way to honor Doug Faires. I agree that the best way to get the HiMCM going at a high school is to have an MCM mentor from a local college. Recently, I invited both Helena local high schools, Capital High and Helena High, to the Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry. Both schools have had teams participating in the HiMCM. Additionally the coaches for those teams also help me out as triage judges for the HiMCM. This year was amazing—we had one Finalist, three Meritorious, five Honorable Mention, and two Successful Participants. The Finalist team are only sophomores, so next year should be even better. Last week, I went to Capital High to hand out the certificates with the principal present, and we are scheduled to honor the teams at an upcoming school board meeting.

We are proud to present the Doug Faires Award to Marie Vanisko for her outstanding achievement on behalf of the ideals that Doug strove for.

Award to Rick Spellerberg

Another example is provided by Rick Spellerberg of Simpson College: Year after year (approaching a dozen years now), Simpson College fields more ICM/MCM teams than any other U.S. institution. A big reason is the energy and work supplied by Rick Spellerberg and his colleagues in the Mathematics Dept. The Simpson College teams do very well—Finalist and Meritorious teams have come from this small college. Again, the reason is the work of Simpson Professor Spellerberg, who notes:

The fact that the highly competitive event attracts mathematics teams from around the world doesn't intimidate the Simpson students. Success has bred success in the recruiting of students into the program—a significant number of high school seniors who decide to attend Simpson do so because of our success in the modeling competition. All of the students who participate are aware of student outcomes in terms of securing internships, full-time employment, undergraduate research experiences, and graduate school acceptance as a direct result of their success with the ICM/MCM.

Simpson College's Student Government Association recognized the impact that this competition was having across campus and pays every team's registration fee.

The success and experience our students have had competing in the ICM is now being replicated in interdisciplinary undergraduate research at Simpson College through the Bryan Summer Research Program in Mathematics.

Rick Spellerberg's work has energized colleagues across campus as well. The college has reached a critical mass of students from many departments and academic majors consistently participating, especially in the ICM. Spellerberg exports the contests' success to local high schools. The Simpson Mathematics Dept. recently sponsored 16 high school students, the majority from urban Chicago charter schools, to take part in a mathematical modeling workshop on the Simpson campus in Indianola, IA. Rick Spellerberg recruited seven of his current Simpson students to mentor the high school workshop participants.

We are proud to present the Doug Faires Award to Rick Spellerberg for his outstanding achievement on behalf of the ideals that Doug strove for.

The Future

The Doug Faires Award will be given for individuals who achieve great results in a particular year or cumulative excellent results over a period of time. Marie Vanisko and Rick Spellerberg exemplify both annual and cumulative achievement reflecting the goals of the Doug Faires award. Awardees receive a certificate of appreciation that expresses our enduring gratitude.

We would like you to nominate someone in your community (including possibly yourself!) who is promoting mathematical modeling at the local level.

About the Author

Solomon Garfunkel is the founder and Executive Director of COMAP and Executive Publisher of this *Journal*.

He served on the mathematics faculties of Cornell University and the University of Connecticut at Storrs, but he has dedicated the last 35 years to research and development efforts in mathematics education. He was project director for the Undergraduate Mathematics and Its Applications (UMAP) and the High School Mathematics and Its Applications (HiMAP) Projects funded by NSF, and directed three telecourse projects, including *Against All Odds: Inside Statistics* and *In Simplest Terms: College Algebra*, for the Annenberg/CPB Project. He has been the Executive Director of COMAP, Inc. since its inception in 1980.

Dr. Garfunkel was the project director and host for the video series *For All Practical Purposes: Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics*. He was the Co-Principal Investigator on the ARISE Project, and Co-Principal Investigator of the CourseMap, ResourceMap, and WorkMap projects. In 2003, Dr. Garfunkel was Chair of the National Academy of Sciences and Mathematical Sciences Education Board Committee on the Preparation of High School Teachers.