

University of Rochester Math Olympiad

Organizers:

Dan-Andrei Geba and John Harper
Department of Mathematics
University of Rochester

Contact information:

Phone (585)273-5629, 275-3420

Fax (585) 273-4655

E-mail: dangeba@math.rochester.edu,
harper@math.rochester.edu

April 2007

Goal:

Nowadays, we realize more and more that at the heart of both teaching and learning Mathematics lies the problem solving techniques and the ability of one to use them in applications. Math competitions have long been among the front-runners advocates of problem solving.

While for K-12 education there is a strong schedule of math contests in place, the undergraduate students have only a handful of options: the William Lowell Putnam exam, the Virginia Tech Regional Mathematics contest and the International Mathematics Competition for University Students.

We developed this contest with these ideas in mind and we hope that it will grow into the friendly Western New York math competition we envisioned.

Prospected invited schools:

Cornell University, Nazareth College, Rochester Institute of Technology, St. Bonaventure University, St. John Fisher College, State University of New York at Brockport, State University of New York at Buffalo, State University of New York at Geneseo, Syracuse University and University of Rochester.

Format:

An individual 3-hour exam consisting of 4 proof-based problems from the general areas of Mathematics, covered as in the description of the Putnam exam. The problems will be sent to each college to a local supervisor who will administer the exam. The supervisor will then send the exams of his students back to University of Rochester for grading. Measures will be taken to assure the anonymity of the participants for a fair grading process.

Prizes:

- First Prize: an award in the amount of \$250.
- Second Prize: an award in the amount of \$200.
- Third Prize: an award in the amount of \$150.

There will be a separate award in the amount of \$100, sponsored by the Department of Mathematics, to be given to one of the best ranked University of Rochester students.