

Two undergraduate math majors are spending a semester at a prestigious university

Leonard Foret and David Shor, undergraduate students at the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, are spending the Fall'09 semester at the prestigious Independent University of Moscow (IUM), as participants in the international Math in Moscow program. After a competitive selection, five students from US were awarded NSF grants to cover their tuition and lodging in Moscow. David and Lenny are two of those five students. This is a sign of recognition and distinction of our two students. To better appreciate the great opportunity David and Lenny have being students at IUM, here is a bit of information about that institution.

The Independent University of Moscow is a small, but very highly regarded institution of higher learning and research in mathematics. It consists of two subdivisions: the Higher College of Mathematics (Math College) and the Higher College of Mathematical Physics.

The IUM was founded in 1991 by a group of world renowned mathematicians among which V. Arnold., A. Beilinson, L. Faddeev, A. Kirillov, S. Novikov, Ya. Sinai, P. Deligne, R. MacPherson, The leading professors, including V. Arnold, S. Novikov, V. Vassiliev, and B. Feigin, gave plenary talks at World Mathematical Congresses. V. Arnold and S. Novikov are members of numerous universities and academies. V. Arnold is the Craffoord Prize winner, and S. Novikov, A. Beilinson, P. Deligne, and R. MacPherson are Fields medalists (the equivalent of the Nobel prize for mathematics). Leading worldwide mathematicians regularly give talks to the students of the IUM. In 1999 such talks were given by Pierre Cartier (ENS, Paris), Steve Smale (Hong Kong-Berkeley), Alexander Kirillov (Univ. of Pennsylvania), Anatole Katok (Penn State University), Miles Reid (Warwick) and others.

In 2000 the Independent University of Moscow announced its Math in Moscow program. Under this program, the IUM invites undergraduate students majoring in mathematics and/or computer science, as well as graduate students specializing in these fields, to come to Moscow for one semester (15 weeks) of mathematics courses given in English by IUM professors. Features of the Math in Moscow Program: modern, research-oriented curriculum; highly qualified professors, with sufficient teaching experience in English; comfortable modern university building in Moscow's historic center, with all the necessary facilities (library, e-mail, Internet, copiers, inexpensive cafeteria on the premises); credits transferable to North American universities; small study groups, individual attention to all the students; Russian language learning options; the student can take as many courses as he/she likes; modest tuition, low living expenses.

The Fall'09 semester is not being easy academically for David and Lenny. They attend there a very intensive schedule of advanced math classes. About their academic activities, one can learn from the website Lenny runs: <<http://mcnair.fiu.edu/wordpress/>>. In the spare time, David and Lenny have also fun, which one can read about on the on-line FIU NEWS magazine: <<http://news.fiu.edu/2009/10/life-in-moscow-for-fiu-math-students/>>.

The acceptance of Leonard Foret and David Shor to IUM did not come as a surprise: both our students have been active members of the Math Club of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics (<<http://fiumathclub.wetpaint.com/>>), and regular participants in the W. Putnam Math Competition. David and Lenny have been working actively for more than two years at the Student Seminar on Algebra and Geometry as well (<<http://www.fiu.edu/~yotovm/StudSem.html>>). They were accepted as fellows of the MacNair post baccalaureate program in Mathematics (Summer'09). David and Lenny have interests in areas ranging from playing music to social studies. They are gifted and very motivated to learn math students whose stay in Moscow is paving their successful future in pursuing graduate studies.