

ORSNZ Council Meeting
February 2007

Agenda Item

Promotion of OR in Schools

Motion

The NZIMA and the RSNZ should be asked to help promote OR in schools. Council will seek a volunteer to head this effort.

Moved by David Ryan. Hamish Waterer seconded.

A total of ten out of fifteen votes were received. There were nine in favour of the motion and one against.

The motion was carried.

David Ryan is to seek a volunteer to head this effort.

Background

The following was discussed at the AGM held on 30 November 2006 and referred to a future council meeting.

The NZIMA and the RSNZ should be asked to help promote OR in schools. The NZIMA are in the process of putting together an RSNZ Alpha on Optimization. The Society, with or without the NZIMA, should put together and RSNZ Alpha on Operations Research.

Existing Initiatives

NZIMA MathsReach - <http://www.nzima.org/Links/Launch.pdf>

MathsReach, officially being launched on the 23rd February by Prime Minister Helen Clark at Onehunga High School, is a new resource (available on the web and CD/DVD) designed to promote the array of opportunities in mathematics open to high school students.

RSNZ Alphas - <http://www.rsnz.org/education/alpha/>

Alphas are produced by the RSNZ and are primarily designed to support the learning of science, mathematics and technology in the national curriculum and are, also, a potential resource for the general public, tertiary institutions and libraries, thus having a very broad audience.

Further Resources

RSNZ Education Links - <http://www.rsnz.org/education/>

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ORSNZ Young Practitioner Prize (YPP) Guidelines

Motion

That the ORSNZ adopt the proposed YPP guidelines below with the possibility of the additional requirement that the entries in the YPP by PhD students or industrial practitioners be distinguished from entries by Masters or undergraduate students. The three possible options are as follows.

Option 1. Maintain existing guidelines.

Option 2. Adopt proposed guidelines.

Option 3. Adopt proposed guidelines with the following requirement:

"The entries in the YPP by PhD students or industrial practitioners are to be distinguished from entries by Masters or undergraduate students."

Moved by David Ryan. Hamish Waterer seconded.

A total of nine out of fifteen votes were received. There was one in favour of Option 1, five in favour of Option 2, and three in favour of Option 3.

It was carried that Option 2 be adopted.

Background

At the 41st Annual Conference of the ORSNZ in 2006, entries in the YPP by PhD students and industrial practitioners were explicitly distinguished from entries by Master and undergraduate students in a way that was reminiscent of how the YPP was judged in earlier years of the Society. Hans Daellenbach headed the judging committee, and prior to presenting the awards, he expressed the need for such a distinction due to the different amounts of time spent working on the projects presented by the two groups by the very nature of their study or employment. Hans then presented a prize for the best entry by a PhD student, and prizes for the two best entries by a Masters or undergraduate student. There were no industrial practitioner entries in 2006.

Presented below are the existing guidelines available from <http://www.esc.auckland.ac.nz/Organisations/ORSNZ/Prizes/index.html#YPP> and a proposal for new guidelines.

Existing Guidelines

The Young Practitioner Prize (YPP) is open to all presenters at the conference who are under 30 years of age on the first day of presentations at the conference. YPP entrants must submit a paper to the conference organisers that meets the requirements for inclusion in the conference proceedings. (Except in exceptional circumstances, this paper will be published in the proceedings.) In the case that the paper has multiple authors, all authors must be under 30 years of age on the first day of presentations at the conference. (Any number of the authors may partake in the presentation.) Supervisors of YPP entrants can not appear as an author. In addition to the paper, YPP entrants must submit a cover sheet detailing: 1/ the starting point of the project (including existing software), 2/ the entrant's contribution to the work and 3/ the time that they allocated to the project (e.g. 1/8th of an academic year, or 2 years

of a PhD program, or 5 years working in industry). This cover sheet is to be signed by the YPP entrant's academic or commercial supervisor(s) (or the entrant themselves if no such supervisor exists).

The ORSNZ typically awards up to 3 YPP prizes at each conference. A total prize pool of up to \$1000 is available for the judges to distribute between winners as they see fit. The judges will take into consideration the quality of both the entrant's written paper and their oral presentation. Guidelines used to assess entries in 2005 included originality, initiative taken, difficulty of topic, the amount of time allocated to the project, and a broader recognition of the context of the project (e.g. assumptions made, limitations, alternative views, future work).

Proposed Guidelines

The Young Practitioner Prize (YPP) is open to all presenters at the conference who are under 30 years of age on the first day of presentations at the conference. YPP entrants must submit a paper to the conference organisers that meets the requirements for inclusion in the conference proceedings. (Except in exceptional circumstances, this paper will be published in the proceedings.) In the case that the paper has multiple authors, all authors must be under 30 years of age on the first day of presentations at the conference. (Any number of the authors may partake in the presentation.) Supervisors of YPP entrants can not appear as an author. In addition to the paper, YPP entrants must submit a cover sheet detailing: 1/ the starting point of the project (including existing software), 2/ the entrant's contribution to the work and 3/ whether they are a industrial practitioner, or a PhD, Masters, or undergraduate student, and the time that they allocated to the project (e.g. 1/8th of an academic year, or 2 years of a PhD program, or 5 years working in industry). This cover sheet is to be signed by the YPP entrant's academic or commercial supervisor(s) (or the entrant themselves if no such supervisor exists).

The ORSNZ will award up to four YPP prizes at each conference from a total prize pool of up to \$1000 for the judges to distribute between winners as they see fit. Not all prizes need be awarded if there are insufficient entrants of a satisfactory standard. The judges will take into consideration the quality of both the entry's written paper and their oral presentation. Guidelines that will be used to assess entries include originality, initiative taken, difficulty of topic, the amount of time allocated to the project, and a broader recognition of the context of the project such as the assumptions made, limitations, alternative views, innovation, potential application, and future work.

Notes:

1. Typically three prizes of values \$500, \$300 and \$200 have been awarded.
2. Multiple prizes have been awarded to the same person over several years.
3. In 2006, the judging committee explicitly distinguished entries by PhD students and industrial practitioners from entries by Masters and undergraduate students.