**Mathematical Contest in Modeling**

**http://www.comap.com/undergraduate/contests/**

Every year students get to challenge themselves in the Mathematical Contest in Modeling (MCM) or Interdisciplinary Contest in Modeling (ICM) sponsored by COMAP.  This is a 4 day contest in which teams of 3 students use all available resources (except people which includes their coach) to solve an open-ended real-world problem.  They write up their solutions in a 20 page paper due at the end of the 4 days.  It is grueling, and yet oddly rewarding learning experience.  It is one that requires creative problem solving and interdisciplinary work that is hard to mimic in class.

Ramapo had its first Mathematical Contest in Modeling (MCM) in 2014 and we did extremely well, earning a Meritorious designation (top 10%).  Perhaps this year we can field a team for the ICM.

I am hoping you know one or two students that you think might want to participate, let them know about this opportunity and encourage them to participate.  I have seen as much success from young teams (all freshmen) to those that have been participating for years.  The best papers are always creative and innovative, so not just for seniors.

Challenge yourself to solve a real-world problem by participating in the international

**Interdisciplinary Contest in Modeling** (ICM) or the

**Mathematical Contest in Modeling** (MCM).   The contests take place in early Spring semester each year. These contests are an opportunity for a team of 3 students to solve and write up their solution to an open-ended problem over 4 days.

Participating in these contests provides evidence that you can

1. problem solve,
2. work in a team environment, and
3. apply knowledge outside the classroom

for your resume.

The contests are organized as:

MCM Problem A: continuous mathematics problem

MCM Problem B: discrete mathematics problem

MCM Problem C: big data

ICM Problem D: network science problem

ICM Problem E: environmental science problem

ICM Problem F: policy problem

We are looking for another great year after our inaugural team placed Meritorious (top 10%) in 2014 in the MCM.  In order to do this, we need to create teams made up of students with

* content **knowledge in the disciplines**,
* ability to effectively **use data,**
* creative **problem solvers**, and
* ability to **write well**.

If you possess any or a combination of these skills, then we need you to join a team.

If you are interested, then please contact Dr. Amanda Beecher (abeecher@ramapo.edu)

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