

UH MENTOR students attending the
Undergraduate Mathematics Conference
held at [Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology](#)
April 21-22, 2017

Five students and one faculty member from UH math attended the event:

Samad Ahmed, Nabeeha Chowdhury, Alex Lam, Nicholas Moorman, Shawn Sunshine, and Dr. Daniel Onofrei.



Picture taken in front of the conference venue. Left to right: Shawn, Alex, Dr. Onofrei, Nabeeha, Nicholas, Samad.

The conference featured three short courses and three plenary lectures on various aspects of data science as well as parallel sessions with research talks by undergrads from various higher education institutions. Here are some impressions from the UH students.

Samad Ahmed: Overall, I thought the trip to Rose-Hulman was a great experience. As someone who wants to go to graduate school, it was amazing to get a glimpse of the current, on-going research of my peers. Also, the conference gave me an idea of certain mathematical areas that I would like to investigate in the future. It was a great networking opportunity and I definitely enjoyed and learned quite a lot from this experience.

Alex Lam: Being surrounded by fellow undergrads that share the same passion for mathematics was a great feeling. The undergrads that presented were able to tackle problems to which a solution may or may not exist. And seeing how the methods change, given the type of problem, was very motivating. These weren't the type of book problems I had become used to solving, where all that mattered was making sure that your answer matches the one in the back of the book. All the undergrads and presenters were able to be creative with their approaches and think critically about their problems.

Before attending this conference, I had no sense of direction when it came to my career path. I know what I want to do, without knowing how to get there. After attending this conference, I became more aware of the practicality mathematics has in a variety of fields! I am now planning to focus my career path in either statistics or machine learning, and applying it to fields of Biology, Medicine, and Education. Knowing how hard the undergraduates worked on their presentations serves as a reminder to keep pushing myself past my limits and work harder toward my goals. If presented with the opportunity to go, I do recommend going!

Nicholas Moorman: I found the conference to be an engaging experience. It was very interesting to see both completed and in-progress research projects, and I feel I now know more about the scope and function of undergraduate research than ever before. I felt there was a good mix of shorter and longer presentations, and with the choice of topics offered there was never a dull moment. Seeing how research techniques are employed in such areas as the drug or medical industry helped to reinforce my impression of their impact. I feel that I left the conference with a greater enthusiasm to conduct my own research, more eager to contribute to the pursuit of mathematical knowledge.

Shawn Sunshine: I had a great experience at the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. I had an opportunity to learn about the data science as well as different research topics. I also had a chance to talk to students from different institutions to learn about their math departments as well as their studies. It was a great opportunity to talk to professors from different institutions to learn about their research projects and their experiences in the mathematics field.