

Meeting: 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP II, MAA Session on Initializing and Sustaining Undergraduate Research Projects and Programs

1003-I1-751 **Annela R. Kelly*** (akelly@ulm.edu), Department of Computer Science, Mathematics, and Physics, Monroe, LA 71209. *Undergraduate Research Opportunities at ULM.*

The Emerging Scholars program is a unique project that joins students and professors in cooperative research and other professional activities. This is university-wide program that has been conducted for two years and it is developed as a retention tool for talented lower-classmen. The program is geared towards students who are freshmen and sophomores and is funded from the retention funds within the university. Students selected for the program receive a stipend of \$400 per semester to participate in the project and they are required to meet with their advisor every week and work couple hours per week. To encourage the upperclassmen to get involved in research, the students compete for a undergraduate research scholarship of \$500. Another appealing aspect for the students is to have the opportunity to travel out of town to present their work at MAA regional conference. For the Emerging Scholars projects our mathematics faculty often use combinatorics, graph theory and data analysis for mathematics education projects. Some of the topics in these fields are easier to understand for students who have not taken many mathematics classes yet. For upperclassmen, we use a variety of topics; some recent ones include number theory and cryptology. (Received September 29, 2004)