

Consortium Connections

Connecting campuses to promote excellence in science and mathematics

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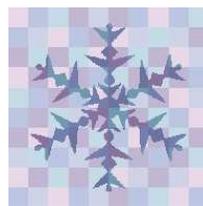
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Spring Forward!

With spring break right around the corner, most of us are looking forward to a few days away from the routines of classes, labs, and grading. Maybe the break will allow you to make progress on a project that's been lingering, or maybe you're looking forward to putting your work away for a week. Whatever you've got planned, enjoy the break!

 **Check out mathsciconsortium.org - our new website!**

In the past few months, we've completely overhauled the consortium's website. Please take a peek at the new look! We've tried to make it a simple and user-friendly design with online forms and a database of speakers that's easier to use. Two recent Hope College graduates, Ryan Weaver and Greg Elizondo of [Blue Door Project](#) made it happen and we thank them for their creative and technical expertise. Please send your comments, questions and ideas about the new website to Karen at nordellpearson@hope.edu.



Interdisciplinary Science Education Workshop at Carleton and St. Olaf Colleges February 23-25, 2007

Thanks to the more than 60 students, faculty, staff and visitors that braved a weekend of snow and ice in Northfield to participate in a workshop highlighting interdisciplinary projects at several consortium campuses. Here are some of the highlights of the weekend. Please see the 'Archives' page on the consortium's new website for a complete program and links to the presentations.

- On Friday night, at the Alumni Guest House at Carleton, Dr. Whitney Schlegel from the University of Indiana Bloomington presented a seminar detailing the creation of their new interdisciplinary human biology program.
- Saturday morning at St. Olaf featured presentations entitled "Team Physics" (J. Engbrecht, St. Olaf), "Computational Modeling Across the Curriculum" (S. Singer, Carleton), and "Science Education Scholars" (J. Stewart and K. Poll, Hope).
- The blizzard gained strength on Saturday afternoon, but thankfully, inside St. Olaf's warm Buntrock Commons, participants listened while teams from all three schools described their projects. "A Research-style Biochemistry Lab" was presented by G. Muth, St. Olaf and J. Chihade, Carleton. Hope's team of A. Best, M. DeJongh and N. Tintle presented on their "Interdisciplinary Research across Biology, Mathematics and Computer Science." Lastly, Mary Walczak and St. Olaf senior Elizabeth Atchinson covered for Julie Legler who was snowed-in and presented on St. Olaf's Center for Interdisciplinary Research.
- Late Saturday afternoon, institutional teams gathered to discuss goals and reflect on ways to improve interdisciplinary communication and education on their campuses. This conversation was in preparation for Sunday's action agenda planning.
- Sunday morning's session began with a conversation about "what does a good novice interdisciplinary learner look like?" Participants brainstormed at tables and then reported back to the whole group.

- The workshop ended with institutional teams gathering once more to create action agendas and share those with the whole group. After some thank yous and final thoughts, participants grabbed box lunches and headed out into the snow and home.

Scenes from the workshop



In addition to the presentations by individual or teams of faculty members, participants had time to reflect on interdisciplinary education at their schools and talk with colleagues. Mary Crawford and Stuart Allison from Knox College (left) talked through ideas on Saturday afternoon and the St. Olaf team (right) gathered to generate and discuss ideas for their action agendas.



Participants gathered at the Ole Store for dinner on Saturday evening. Yum!



group on Sunday morning.

Amelia Taylor, Paul Myrow and Dave Brown from Colorado College met to discuss their action agenda and Temple Burling from Carthage presented his action plan to the full



Thanks to Joanne Stewart, Hope Chemistry, Mary Walczak, St. Olaf Chemistry, and Trish Ferrett, Carleton Chemistry for planning, hosting and facilitating the workshop. Thanks to Mike Seymour and Wes Pearson for helping with transportation. Thanks to Dean David VanWylen at St. Olaf for helping host the meeting at St. Olaf and for inviting Peter Bruns, Patricia Soochan and Tuajuanda Jordan from the HHMI to participate in the weekend. Thanks to Marlene Field the consortium's program assistant for coordinating the travel, hotels and meals as well as preparing all the name tags and folders. Thanks to the participants for making the workshop a time of thoughtful, creative and inspiring conversation.

For more information about the workshop, [click here](#).

New Faculty Workshop: July 13-15, 2007

This summer's new faculty workshop will be held on the weekend of July 13-15th at Björklunden, Lawrence's 'northern' campus in Door County, Wisconsin. Björklunden, pronounced "Bee-york-lun-den", meaning birch forest by the water, is a large property with a gorgeous lodge on the shores of Lake Michigan. For more information about Björklunden, visit <http://www.lawrence.edu/dept/bjork/>.



Online registration on the consortium's new website will begin in May and will continue through the end of June. Postdocs, newly hired tenure-track or term appointment faculty, and faculty just completing their first or second years are welcome to participate. Jeanne Narum of the Independent Colleges Office and Project Kaleidoscope will be facilitating the workshop.

Comments from the Director



Friends and Colleagues,

Thanks to so many of you who braved the winter blizzard to participate in the Interdisciplinary Science Education Workshop in Northfield. Considering it was Minnesota in February, none of us should have been surprised to see the snow fly. Even so, I was grateful for everyone's good humor in spite of the airport delays and wintry road conditions. Not surprisingly, participants eagerly engaged with the presenters and fostered valuable dialogue throughout the weekend. For those of you who created ambitious action agendas on Sunday, please put them someplace visible in your office and check things off as you move ahead with your plans.

Throughout January and February I spent time at Lawrence, Luther, Grinnell, Knox, Carthage, St. Olaf and Macalester in conversation with faculty, staff and administrators. These were very productive and enjoyable visits and I appreciate the warm hospitality I received on every campus. I look forward to completing my Consortium visits at Colorado College and Wash U later this spring. I have also been in conversation with faculty and administrators at Ripon, Augustana and Carleton Colleges about their interest in becoming Consortium members. Bad weather forced us to cancel the Executive Board Meeting that was scheduled for Sunday Feb 25th, but we are going to try to reschedule the meeting for May.

My continued thanks to Marlene for her good work on behalf of the Consortium. She contributed in many important ways to the planning and execution of the most recent workshop and the website redesign. Let me know if you've got ideas for how we can strengthen the consortium. My office phone is 616-395-7217, and email is nordellpearson@hope.edu.

Enjoy your spring break!

Karen Nordell Pearson

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