
Consortium Connections

[The e-Newsletter of the Midstates Consortium for Math and Science](#)
Connecting campuses to promote excellence in science and mathematics

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Undergraduate Research Symposia



The Midstates Consortium for Math and Science (MCMS) hosts two Undergraduate Research Symposia (URS) every Fall. This year, the URS in the Biological Sciences and Psychology will be at Washington University in St. Louis, November 6-7, 2015, and the URS in the Physical Sciences, Math, and Computer Science will be at the University of Chicago, November 13-14, 2015. Undergraduate students are invited to present their research in 15 minute oral or poster presentations to peers from the 13 MCMS member campuses at one of the two symposia. In Fall 2014, 179 students and 38 faculty participated in these meetings. These meetings are wonderful opportunities to meet peers from many colleges, learn about graduate school in science and math, visit campuses with vibrant, diverse and nationally recognized research programs, and have fun in St. Louis and Chicago! The Consortium covers all expenses for 8 students and 2 faculty members from each campus for each meeting. Students are encouraged to discuss registering for the meeting with their research advisors.

Online registration for the URS is open until Friday, October 2, 2015. As part of the online registration, students will need to submit an abstract (200 word maximum).

- [URS in Biological Sciences and Psychology at Washington University in St. Louis, November 6-7, 2015.](#) Students are welcome to present on subjects ranging from ecology, environmental science, zoology, biochemistry, medicine, and molecular biology, behavioral and cognitive science, pharmacology, neuroscience, and other fields relating to biology and/or psychology. [Link to online registration.](#)
- [URS in Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science at the University of Chicago, November 13-14, 2015.](#) Students are welcome to present on topics including computer science, engineering, environmental science, chemistry, biochemistry, physics, mathematics, statistics, geology, and other physical science and/or math-related disciplines. [Link to online registration.](#)

Janet Andersen Lecture Award Winners

Congratulations to Dr. Laura Listenberger and Dr. Julie Bartley, who are the 2015 Janet Andersen Lecture Award winners! The annual Janet Andersen Lecture Award is given to two Consortium professors who have vigorous research programs involving undergraduates, are exceptional mentors for undergraduate research students, are engaged and skilled teachers, or create interdisciplinary research opportunities for undergraduate students. For more information about the Janet Andersen Award, the award winners, and how to nominate your colleagues for this award, please visit the [Janet Andersen Lecture Award webpage](#).

	<p>Dr. Laura Listenberger is the 2015 Janet Andersen lecture award winner for the Biological Sciences and Psychology. Laura is an Associate Professor in the Biology and Chemistry Departments at St. Olaf College. Laura will be a keynote speaker at the Biological Sciences and Psychology Undergraduate Research Symposium at Washington University, November 6-7, 2015.</p>
	<p>Dr. Julie Bartley is the 2015 Janet Andersen lecture award winner for the Physical Sciences, Math, and Computer Science. Julie is a Professor in the Geology Department at Gustavus Adolphus College. Julie will be a keynote speaker at the Physical Sciences, Math, and Computer Science Undergraduate Research Symposium at the University of Chicago, November 13-14, 2015.</p>

Early Career Workshop (July 10-12, 2015)

The annual Early Career Workshop was held at Gustavus Adolphus College on July 10-12, 2015 as part of the faculty development workshop series offered by the Midstates Consortium. It was attended by 8 new tenure track faculty and term faculty as well as postdoctoral fellows from 5 of the Consortium schools (Gustavus, Carthage, Colorado, Hope and Luther). Participants developed strategic action plans in a weekend workshop facilitated by Scott Bur and Brandy Russell, based on an approach established by Karen Nordell Pearson and Jeanne Narum. Faculty and postdocs in their first three years at a Consortium school are

eligible to attend this annual workshop, so look for this again in Summer 2016 and put it on your calendar!

Scientific Instrumentation in the Curriculum (June 21-23, 2015)

A faculty development workshop on Scientific Instrumentation in the Curriculum was held at Gustavus Adolphus College on June 21-23, 2015. Eleven faculty members and staff from Gustavus Adolphus College (6), Lawrence University (2), Colorado College (2) and Carthage College (1) attended the workshop. The workshop allowed participants to share successes, challenges, and ideas about teaching scientific instrumentation to undergraduate students. Strategies for the following issues were discussed:

- incorporating research instrumentation into the mainstream curriculum,
- teaching students the practical use of instrumentation at all levels,
- acquiring and maintaining instrumentation, and
- assessing the impact on student learning.

The workshop also facilitated collaborations among those considering curricular changes around scientific instrumentation.

Support for Speaker Visits

Are you looking for seminar and colloquium speakers to invite to your campus? Do you have a great talk already prepared that you would like to share at other Consortium schools? The Midstates Consortium [Speaker Series website](#) provides a database of 100+ speakers and talks that you can use either to invite speakers to your campus or to advertise your own talks. The best part is that the Consortium provides full funding for speaker visits arranged through the website and approved by the Consortium!

- Option 1: To invite speakers from the database, [search the speaker database](#) and click request speaker to make a formal online funding request.
- Option 2: To invite speakers at Consortium schools who are not in the database, contact the potential speaker and then use the [online speaker request form](#) to make a formal funding request.
- Option 3: Add yourself to the speaker database by submitting a talk title and description via the [speaker series online application form](#). Early career faculty are especially encouraged to submit a talk title and description to the database and then

to contact seminar organizers at other Consortium schools to apprise them of your talk and your desire to share your research and make new contacts.

Support for Short-Term Consultations

The Midstates Consortium has Short-Term Consultation (STC) funding to encourage and support collaborations involving two or more individuals at different Consortium schools. Projects may involve sharing information, instrumentation and facilities, or expertise among faculty members. STC funding opportunities are a great way to jumpstart and sustain research collaborations! See the [STC website](#) for more information and to [make a formal request for STC funding via the online application form](#).

Consortium Director Resigns



The previous Midstates Consortium director, Dr. Brandy Russell of the Gustavus Adolphus College Chemistry Department, resigned from the Midstates Consortium director position effective June 30, 2015, but has agreed to stay on as the Interim Director for the 2015-2016 year. We wish Brandy and her family all the best moving forward and sincerely thank her for her years of dedicated service to the Consortium.

Search for a New Consortium Director

The Executive Committee will soon begin a search for the next director of the Midstates Consortium. The Director facilitates Consortium programming and seeks to form connections among faculty, students, staff, and administrators on the 13 member campuses. The position comes with a salary and requires approximately 15 hours per week.

The previous director, Brandy Russell, is available to answer questions about the position or hiring process via e-mail (brussell@gustavus.edu) or by phone ([507-933-6160](tel:507-933-6160), though it

is easier to catch her if you email her to set up a time to call). Each Consortium member has a [campus representative on the Executive Committee](#), and these folks are another good source of information about the position.

If you are interested in this position, please watch our web site (mathsciconsortium.org) for more information.

Application deadline: TBD.