

Consortium Connections

*Connecting campuses to promote excellence in science and
mathematics*

Upcoming opportunities

- **Instrumentation in the Undergraduate Curriculum.** We are seeking faculty from any science or math department who are interested in participating in or helping to organize a summer 2014 faculty development workshop on instrumentation in the undergraduate curriculum. If this interests you, e-mail or call Brandy Russell, preferably by March 1. http://mathsciconsortium.org/event_information/scientific-instrumentation-in-the-undergraduate-curriculum
- **Janet Andersen Lecture Awards.** This award recognizes excellence in working with undergraduate research students, and the winners give keynote lectures at the fall undergraduate research symposia. We will circulate a call for nominations for the Janet Andersen Award in March. Now is the time to have conversations with your colleagues and students about possible nominees.
- **Seminar Speakers.** Remember that the Midstates Consortium has funds to help you bring great speakers to your campus! We will pay all travel, lodging, and meal expenses for you to invite a speaker from another member campus for a seminar and visit. A list of potential speakers is available on our web site, but you can invite any scientist/mathematician from a member institution. ProTip: add yourself to the database if you want to give more seminars <http://mathsciconsortium.org/speaker>

Recent news

- **Undergraduate Research Symposia.** Our two annual Undergraduate Research Symposia were great successes this year! The symposium in the Physical Sciences, Mathematics, and Computer Science had 139 participants – nearly 30% higher than any previous year! Our Janet Andersen Award Lecturers – Brad Chamberlain of Luther College and Dan Hornbach of Macalester College – gave outstanding talks. <http://mathsciconsortium.org/symposium>
- **Future Faculty Workshop.** Director Brandy Russell and Gustavus Adolphus College faculty member Karla Marz gave a 1-day workshop at Washington University for senior graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who were interested in future careers at liberal arts institutions. Twenty-five participants gathered to discuss job application strategies and strategic planning for success once they begin their faculty careers.
- **Seminar Speakers and Short Term Consultations.** As usual, we have been funding small grants to faculty to travel between Midstates institutions to give seminars, collaborate on their work, and to share equipment and expertise. Scott Waitukaitis (University of Chicago Physics Department) gave a seminar at St. Olaf College. Gina Quiram (Gustavus Adolphus College Biology Department) gave a seminar at Lawrence University. Paul Fischer (Macalester College Chemistry Department) gave a seminar at Washington University in St. Louis. Ron Brisbois (Macalester College Chemistry Department) gave a seminar at Lawrence University. Kristy Gould (Luther College Psychology Department) and Jennifer Templeton (Knox College Biology Department) visited each other for a research collaboration. Erin Flather (Luther College Physics Department) visited Brian Borovsky (St. Olaf College Physics Department) for a short term consultation. Paul Humke and Bruce Hanson (St. Olaf College Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science Department) visited Marianna Csornyei (University of Chicago Mathematics Department) for a short term consultation.