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Consortium Connections

Connecting campuses to promote excellence in science and mathematics

Founded by the Pew Charitable Trusts

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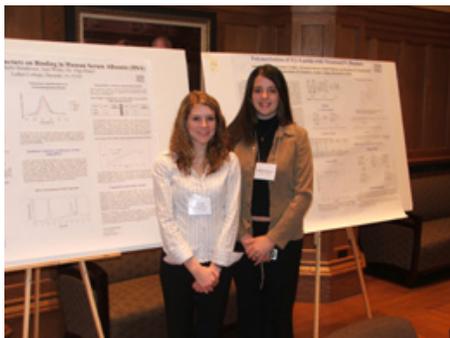
Connecting in new ways!

In an effort to strengthen the connections between all of us in the consortium, we are trying something new. Once every month or two we'll be bringing you this electronic newsletter via e-mail. We hope you'll take a few minutes to read through the short articles and updates about the consortium's programs. We look forward to hearing from you about how we can make these *Consortium Connections* useful and interesting to readers on your campus. Please send your comments, questions and ideas to Karen Nordell Pearson at nordellpearson@hope.edu.

Undergraduate Research Symposia: November 3-5, 2006

Thanks to the more than 175 students and faculty that participated in the undergraduate research symposia at Washington University in St. Louis and The University of Chicago. Washington University hosted this year's Physical Sciences and Mathematics meeting and the Biological Sciences and Psychology meeting was hosted by The University of Chicago. Students from all 12 consortium campuses presented their research and answered questions in oral and poster sessions throughout the weekend.

Physical Sciences and Mathematics at Washington University



The Wash U symposium offered students a weekend full of research presentations, informal time to talk with other students and faculty, time to visit several St. Louis landmarks and attractions and, of course, plenty of good food. Twenty-four students made oral presentations and thirty-six students presented posters. Michelle Henderson and Heidi Schwanz (pictured at left) who worked with Professors Rinco and Chamberlain in the Chemistry Department at Luther College are pictured with their posters.

On Saturday afternoon participants visited the St. Louis Zoo, the St. Louis Art Museum and the Gateway Arch and came back to campus for a pizza dinner and an evening poster session.

One faculty member commented that "this meeting was the best of the four Pew Symposia I've attended! It was stimulating and thought provoking." On the evaluations many students noted the talks by Wash U faculty as weekend highlights. One student wrote "The talk about quarks in the universe was excellent." Thanks Mark Alford!



Thanks to Wash U faculty Rich Loomis, John McCarthy, Mark Conradi, Mark Alford, James Miller and Ed Spitznagel for presenting at the meeting. Thanks to the fifteen other consortium faculty that spent the weekend in St. Louis supporting all the students. And finally, special thanks to John Bleeke and Angela Potter for organizing and hosting the symposium.

Biological Sciences and Psychology at University of Chicago

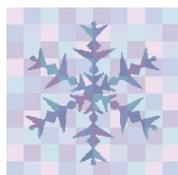
The eighty-five students and fourteen faculty that gathered at the University of Chicago heard talks about the mating behavior of worms, the formation of memory and cancer gene therapy among many other topics in biology, biochemistry and psychology.

The poster sessions allowed time for lively conversation among students and faculty. William Werner (pictured below) presented on his research on red-winged blackbirds that he conducted with Ken Yasukawa at Beloit College. After an intense day of presentations participants had the evening to explore downtown Chicago. When asked what the most valuable aspect of the meeting was, many of the students commented that they liked interacting with the students and faculty from other schools.

Thanks to Chicago faculty Erin Adams, Matthew Brady, Melina Hale, and Steve Kron for presenting at the meeting. Also, thanks to graduate students Julian Boggiano, Markus Boos, Lizette Durand, Lucinda Lawson, Chika Nwachukwu and Michelle Rafacz for being part of the panel discussion on Saturday. Thanks to all the faculty that spent the weekend in Chicago with the students. And finally, special thanks to Nancy Schwartz and Melissa Lindberg for organizing and hosting the symposium.



Upcoming Faculty Development Workshop: February 23-25, 2007



The consortium is pleased to announce an upcoming faculty development workshop entitled **"Interdisciplinary Science Education: Institutional Examples, Lessons Learned, and Challenges."** The three day workshop is being organized by three chemistry faculty members: Joanne Stewart, Hope College, Tricia Ferrett, Carleton College and Mary Walczak, St. Olaf College, and will be hosted primarily at St. Olaf in Northfield. As always, travel, lodging, meals and most other expenses for the workshop are covered for faculty from consortium schools. Although it's not required, we encourage teams of two or three faculty members from the same campus to come to this workshop together.

Here's a description of the meeting from the organizers. This meeting will promote sharing strategies about what works (or doesn't work) in interdisciplinary science teaching, research, and faculty development. The host institutions are all implementing HHMI-supported interdisciplinary programs and collaborate at the leadership level on faculty development events. In the previous two years we have collaborated on organizing faculty development workshops on interdisciplinarity, which were held on our respective campuses. At this point, we are ready to come together with other interested faculty to discuss our experiences and learn from each other. Participants will learn about concrete examples of ongoing projects and lessons learned about promoting interdisciplinary science in undergraduate science education. Participants will also have a chance to raise and discuss key issues and challenges (such as assessment of student learning, building sustainable curricula, working within disciplinary structures, etc.) in small groups, including in institutional teams.

The consortium's website has much more detail about the workshop as well as online registration that begins December 1st and ends in early February. Check it out! <http://pewscimath.hope.edu/index.htm>.

New Faculty Workshop: Summer 2007

As you hire new math and science colleagues for 2007, please make sure you encourage them to come to the consortium's new faculty workshop. The dates aren't set yet, but it is usually sometime in July.



Take advantage of the consortium's Speaker Series...

The Consortium has a database of speakers who would be willing to visit other Pew institutions to give a colloquium. Consortium funds are available to pay for travel, lodging, and meals. To apply for funds to support a speaker visit, complete the on-line application form at http://pewscimath.hope.edu/speaker_series_guidelines.htm.

We encourage you to add yourself and your area of interests and expertise to this database at http://pewscimath.hope.edu/speaker_application.htm.

...and also the Short Term Consultations

The purpose of the Short Term Consultation (STC) is to encourage and support collaborations involving two or more individuals at different Pew institutions. Projects might involve sharing information, instrumentation and facilities or expertise among the faculty members of the Consortium. The STC funds faculty and student visits to member campuses for reasons including consultation on curriculum, collaboration on research projects, or advising faculty or departments on proposal writing or project assessment.

The STC Program will fund an average of three visits per year per institution, including travel, hotel and meal expenses for no more than three days, and host expenses. Awards for \$1,000 or less will be reviewed by the Director and proposals for between \$1,000 and \$7,000 will be reviewed by the Executive Committee. See the website for more information and the online application.

Greetings from the Director



Friends and Colleagues,

Early this fall I assumed the directorship of the consortium and am spending the 2006-07 academic year at Hope College while on sabbatical from Lawrence University. It has been a busy fall working with Marlene Field, the consortium's program assistant on the two Undergraduate Research Symposia. Marlene did a wonderful job coordinating many of the meeting's details with John, Angela, Nancy and Melissa. Because the two meetings were on the same weekend, I split my time between St. Louis and Chicago. As usual I was impressed by the quality of the research that was presented and enjoyed my conversations with students and faculty at both meetings. Keep up the great work!

As the new director, I look forward to working with faculty and students to strengthen, enhance, and expand the consortium programs and maintain the level of excellence that has been carefully fostered by the previous directors and member campuses. I am looking forward to visiting many of the member campuses this winter and spring. If you've got ideas for how we can strengthen the consortium, please give me a call at 616-395-7217 or send an email to nordellpearson@hope.edu.

Have a nice Thanksgiving and a productive rest of the year!

Karen Nordell Pearson