

## 2006-2007 Project NExT Fellows San José Program, August 2007

The Project NExT registration area is in MacQuarrie Hall (MH) on the San José State University campus.

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1

**8:00 - 10:00 pm** Social Event for 2006-07 and 2007-08 Project NExT Fellows and presenters  
**Recreation and Activities Center (RAC Room), Campus Village**

**10:00 pm - ?** INFORMAL SOCIALIZING

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

**7:00 - 8:30 am** BREAKFAST – Dining Commons

**8:15 – 9:30 am** TWO concurrent sessions

A. *How to Write an Effective Letter of Recommendation*  
**Duncan Hall 135**

Panelists: Steven Krantz, The American Institute of Mathematics  
Michael Orrison, Harvey Mudd College  
James Sellers, Pennsylvania State University

This will be a panel discussion concerning writing letters of recommendation for students. Panelists will address what should be included in a letter of recommendation as well as what information is not helpful. They will also give advice on writing specific types of letters including graduate admission letters, REU letters, and letters for students seeking employment. Time saving techniques, strategies for writing letters for the average or below average student, and examples of good and bad letters of recommendation may also be presented.

Organizers: Kumer Das, Lamar University  
Cindy Farthing, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Jennifer Wightman, Coastal Carolina University

**8:15-9:30 am**

**B. *Navigating Pre-Tenure Reviews***

**MH 224**

Do you have a pre-tenure review in your future and you are not sure what to expect? Have you already gone through a review process and have some words of wisdom to share? If you answered yes to either of these questions, then this swap session is for you! Besides sharing stories and experiences, we will discuss successful strategies, pitfalls to avoid, and other "dos and don'ts" in preparing your review. This session will give you ideas for creating a customizable roadmap that will help you successfully navigate your pre-tenure review.

Organizers: Dylan Helliwell, Seattle University  
Rebecca Hillman, University of South Carolina, Sumter  
Jennifer Langdon, LaGrange College

**9:35 - 10:05 am BREAK – MH Hallway**

**10:10 - 11:25 am TWO concurrent sessions**

**A. *Funding agencies other than the National Science Foundation and the Department of Education***

**MH 323**

Most people are familiar with grant opportunities from the National Science Foundation and Department of Education, but there are a multitude of other local, regional, and national sources out there willing to support mathematics if you know where to look. During this swap session the organizers will share information from their own experiences and advice from some people they've contacted. Come to share your own experiences and brainstorm ideas of how to fund your projects, whether you need a small one-time grant, or wish to start a large multi-year program costing hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Organizers: Gizem Karaali, Pomona College  
David Miller, West Virginia University  
Jonathan Rogness, University of Minnesota

**10:10-11:25 am**

**B. *Increasing the Number of Majors***

**MH 224**

Panelists: David Bressoud, Macalester College  
James Sellers, Pennsylvania State University  
Paul Zorn, St. Olaf College

What can be done to increase the number of mathematics majors in a department? What works and what doesn't work? Where does a department need to start? What contribution can each of us make? This session will attempt to address these questions and others relating to recruiting new mathematics majors. The first part of the session will consist of presentations by faculty from three schools known for active mathematics departments and high numbers of majors. The rest of the time will consist of a swap session where ideas on increasing the numbers of majors will be discussed, debated, and refined. Attendees are encouraged to bring questions, their own ideas, the ideas of colleagues, and their expertise and experience to this session.

Organizers: Jacob Heidenreich, Loras College  
Peter McNamara, Bucknell University  
Ben Newton, Beloit College  
Jeffrey Powell, Samford University

**11:30 am - 12:15 pm** Small group discussions with other Project NExT Fellows. [For these sessions we will be splitting geographically. Please attend the group that includes the state or province where your institution is located.]

Group A - AB, AK, CO, HI, ID, MT, OR, UT, WA, WY - **MH 323**

Group B - AZ, CA, NV, NM - **MH 223**

Group C - IA, MN, ND, NE, SD - **DH 135**

Group D - AR, KS, LA, MS, MO, OK, TX - **MH 225**

Group E - IL, IN, MI, OH - **MH 224**

Group F - AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TN, VI - **MH 222**

Group G - DE, KY, PA, WV - **MH 233**

Group H - DC, MD, Metropolitan NYC (ZIP codes 10000-11999 and 12400-12799), NJ, VA - **MH 235**

Group I - CT, MA, ME, NF, NH, NS, NY (ZIP Codes 12000-12399 and 12800-14999) - **MH 234**

**12:15 - 1:30 pm** LUNCH – Dining Commons

1:35 – 3:05 pm TWO concurrent sessions

A. *Teaching Time Savers*

**Duncan Hall 135**

Panelists: Annalisa Crannell, Franklin & Marshall College  
Michael Orrison, Harvey Mudd College  
Lila Roberts, Georgia College & State University

This session will focus on time-saving strategies, including technology-based tactics, related to classroom interactive activities, grading, managing office hours, and administrative tasks. It will conclude with a swap session where meeting participants are enthusiastically encouraged to donate ideas and tips.

Organizers: Carol Gee, St. Edward's University  
Terry Jo Leiterman, St. Norbert College  
Susan Martonosi, Harvey Mudd College

B. *Getting undergraduates involved in (my) research*

**MH 224**

Panelists: Bem Cayco, San Jose State University  
Carl Cowen, Indiana University Purdue University,  
Indianapolis  
Mario Martelli, Claremont McKenna College  
Mark McKinzie, Saint John Fisher College  
Amelia Taylor, Colorado College

This will be a panel session composed of professors who have engaged undergraduates in research at various levels. The discussion will include the panelists' perspectives on the purpose of undergraduate research, and how they have been successful at finding research problems which serve this purpose. Different outcomes of undergraduate research, ranging from publishable articles to small presentations, will be discussed, along with possible sources of funding for these activities. Much of the time will be dedicated to questions from the audience.

Organizers: Ryan Gantner, Saint John Fisher College  
Jennifer Halfpap, University of Montana  
Zachariah Teitler, Southeastern Louisiana University

3:05-3:55 pm BREAK – Science Building Hallway

3:55 - 5:25 pm Closing Session

Recognition of 2006-07 Fellows

Presentation: *Finding Your Niche in the Profession*

Joseph Gallian, University of Minnesota Duluth

**Science Building 142**

- 6:30 – 7:30 pm** Mathfest Opening Reception (Cash bar)  
**Regency Lobby, Fairmont San José**
- 7:30 – 9:30 pm** Mathfest Opening Banquet  
Master of Ceremonies: Donald Albers, Mathematical Association of America  
Presentation: *Canonical forms: A mathematician's view of musical canons*  
Noam Elkies, Harvard University  
**Regency Ballroom, Fairmont San José**
- 9:30 pm - ?** INFORMAL SOCIALIZING

#### **FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 AND 4**

**Project NExT Courses During the Mathfest:** Four-hour courses meeting in the Fairmont San José on Friday and Saturday, August 3 - 4. [See information for assignments.]

- A. *Biological Applications and Mathematical Modeling for Undergraduate Courses* – Joseph Mahaffy, San Diego State University, 1:00 - 3:00 pm,  
**Plaza Room, Fairmont San José**
- B. *Applying for Research and Education Grants at the National Science Foundation/Starting and Maintaining Your Mathematical Research Program*, 1:00 - 3:00 pm  
Deborah Lockhart, National Science Foundation, **Terrace Room, Fairmont San José**  
Ezra (Bud) Brown, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University,  
**Redwood Room, Fairmont San José**
- C. *Teaching an Introductory Statistics Course* – Robin Lock, Saint Lawrence University, 3:15 - 5:15 pm, **Plaza Room, Fairmont San José**
- D. *Teaching Math Courses for Teachers* – Dale Oliver, Humboldt State University, 3:15 - 5:15 pm, **Terrace Room, Fairmont San José**
- E. *Undergraduate Research – How to Make It Work* – Aparna Higgins, University of Dayton,  
3:15 - 5:15 pm, **Redwood Room, Fairmont San José**

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Katie Evans and Matthew Horton served as coordinators for the sessions organized by the 2006-07 Project NExT Fellows.

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Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) is a professional development program for new or recent Ph.D.s in the mathematical sciences (including pure and applied mathematics, statistics, operations research, and mathematics education). It addresses all aspects of an academic career: improving the teaching and learning of mathematics, engaging in research and scholarship, and participating in professional activities. It also provides the participants with a network of peers and mentors as they assume these responsibilities.

7/6/07

