

# MSCS



# Mess

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Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science  
St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057

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## This Week's Colloquium

Presenters: Philip Gipson and Charlie McEachern  
Date: Tuesday, September 30th  
Time: 1:30 pm  
Location: SC 188

### Researchers recently returned from Poland

With significant support from the National Science Foundation and St. Olaf College, the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science sponsored four student research scholars during the summer of 2008. Thomas McConville, Nate Clement, Philip Gipson, and Charlie McEachern spent the period from mid June until mid August based at Lodz Lodz (pronounced wooj) University in Poland where they did research in real analysis. Thomas and Nate are in Budapest this semester, attending the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program, but Philip and Charlie are back to give us a taste of the research work they did this summer and also let us in on some of their non-mathematical adventures in Central Europe.

### Math Problem Solving

The Math Problem Solving Group will meet 6:30--7:30 p.m. every Wednesday in SC 182. Students interested in sharpening their problem

solving skills and/or in competing in various local, national, and international competitions are welcome. Feel free to contact Prof. Gower (SC 222, [gower@stolaf.edu](mailto:gower@stolaf.edu)) with questions.

## Career Opportunities

MSCS students interested in the actuarial field should take note of these upcoming campus visits:

### Travelers, St. Paul, MN

Positions: Actuarial Leadership Development Program (full-time) and Actuarial Intern  
Application Deadline: Monday, October 20th

### Securian, St. Paul, MN

Positions: Actuarial Science Intern, Assistant Actuarial Analyst (full-time)  
Information Session: Thursday, October 9th, 11:30-12:30, Viking Theater  
Application Deadline: Wednesday, October 22nd

### Collins, Bloomington, MN

Position: Catastrophe Risk Analyst  
Information Session: Thursday, October 9th, 7-8 p.m., BC 222  
Application Deadline: Monday, October 13th

Former St. Olaf MSCS majors will be leading the information sessions and recruiting processes for two of the companies-- Chris

Westermeyer and Nathan Hubbell for Travelers, and Jon Christianson for Collins.

To remain aware of other recruiting opportunities for actuarial work or other MSCS-related fields, please contact Kirsten Cahoon in the Center for Experiential Learning. Those interested in course planning for possible futures in the actuarial field, please contact Professor Paul Roback in SC314 or at [roback@stolaf.edu](mailto:roback@stolaf.edu).

### CS Demos in Regents Link

When the new Regents Hall is officially dedicated next weekend, be sure to catch the computer science (CS) demonstrations in the new "link" classroom RNS 203. The link, which will connect Regents Hall to the renovated OMH next year, is now opening for business---just in time for the dedication ceremonies. Besides the new, enlarged CIR and general classrooms, there are two rooms that are designed for teaching CS: the new CS lab RNS 202 and the classroom RNS 203. We're eager to show what these rooms can do! The demo will take place Saturday 10/4 from 11-2, and will include a new 3D video, produced by Stephanie Tanner '10, and a new, massive "map-reduce" computation on a Beowulf cluster by Todd Frederick '09 and Mike Gesme '10.

### Regents Hall Dedication

The following are some noteworthy events occurring next weekend as part of the Regents Hall dedication ceremonies.

#### Alumni Science Symposium

Friday, October 3, 2008  
3:30-5pm  
Regents Hall Room 150

*Panel Discussion:* "What Impact Can St. Olaf Students Make in the Advancement of Issues Related to Math and Science?"

*Moderator:* Anne Walter, Professor of Biology  
Panelists include **Dr. Theresa Hull Wise**, an '89 grad who majored in mathematics. She currently works at Northwest and Delta Airlines as Chief Information Officer.

#### Dedication Plenary Address

Saturday, October 4, 2008  
2:00-3:00pm  
Boe Chapel

"Liberal Education and Science for the 21st Century"

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski III, President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County

A nationally recognized advocate for improvements in science and math education, with a special emphasis on minority participation and performance, Dr. Hrabowski graduated at age 19 from Hampton Institute with highest honors in mathematics. At the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, he received his M.A. in mathematics and four years later, at age 24, his Ph.D. in higher education administration/statistics. Dr. Hrabowski has served as president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County since 1992. He also serves as a consultant to the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the National Academies, and universities and school systems nationally.

Editor-in-Chief:	Christina Koch
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MM Czar:	Donna Brakke
Problems Editor:	Jason Gower

*If you would like to submit an article or math event to be published in the Math Mess, e-mail [kochc@stolaf.edu](mailto:kochc@stolaf.edu).*