

Upcoming Events:

Social Network Data: Collection and Analysis Workshop

Research Triangle Park
October 21-23, 2013

E&O: Undergraduate Workshop

SAMSI, Research Triangle Park
October 24-25, 2013

Field of Dreams Conference

Phoenix, Arizona
November 1-3, 2013

Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS)

Nashville, Tennessee
November 13-17, 2013

SIDIM XXIX

Pontifical Catholic University of
Puerto Rico in Ponce, Puerto Rico
February 28- March 1, 2014

Field of Dreams Reminder

Faculty— Please let us know if you are planning to attend this year's conference by submitting your **online registration** by Friday, October 18.

Also, today (10/15) is the last day to receive the discounted conference rate on your hotel room, so make sure to get your **hotel reservations** secured, otherwise your hotel price will increase. Please let us know if you have any questions.

USTARS

Underrepresented Students in Topology and Algebra Research Symposium

Another successful year! This past April, the third annual USTARS conference was held at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. USTARS stands for Underrepresented Students in Topology and Algebra Research Symposium. It is a venue where algebra and topology graduate students from underrepresented groups in all stages of their research can present their work and network with other mathematicians having similar interests.

The symposium is the brainchild of Dr. Candice Price. In 2010, she was inspired by a graduate student run conference she attended at SUNY Binghamton called BUGCAT (Binghamton University Graduate Conference in Algebra and Topology). While there, she thought "We have a strong Topology and Algebra program and a group of very talented graduate students. We should have something like this at Iowa." When she returned from the conference, she contacted Drs. Syvillia Averett, Erik Insko, and Carlos de la Mora, then graduate students at the The University of Iowa. She asked if they would be interested in organizing such a conference. They said yes, and USTARS was created. It is now going on its fourth year and is no longer held exclusively at The University of Iowa. When asked about USTARS, Dr. Price said, "It has become something that I never thought it would be. The feedback received from participants is overwhelmingly positive!"



USTARS is a two-day event featuring 30-minute research talks given by graduate students in the fields of topology and algebra. Additionally, there are three separate 1-hour presentations given by two selected graduate students and one invited keynote speaker who is an early career mathematician. Dr. Jennifer Vasquez, from the University of Scranton, gave this year's keynote address, "Games, the Braid Group, and a Short Exact Sequence." Past year's keynote speakers include Dr. Federico Ardila, San Francisco State University, and Dr. Emille Davie Lawrence, University of San Francisco.

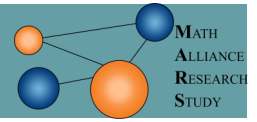
With successful meetings in April 2011 and 2012 at The University of Iowa, and April 2013 at Purdue University, we are happy to announce that a fourth annual USTARS conference is in the works and planned for April 2014. If you are interested in attending USTARS, visit us at www.ustars.org for more information.

Uniform Admissions Process with Project 1000



At this year's Field of Dreams Conference we are introducing something new for those graduating seniors in attendance, the Uniform Admissions Process (UAP). We are working with the organization Project 1000 on building a system for students to apply for graduate school while at the conference this November. Project 1000 has been a leader in aiding underrepresented scholars find and apply to graduate schools for over 25 years. **Click here** to read a recent article about Project 1000 published in the *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education*.

Math Alliance Research Study: Research Brief & Data Collection



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Research Brief

This month's brief from the Math Alliance Research Study at the University of Illinois draws upon data from the Illinois High School Classes of 2002 – 2005 to examine students' intention to pursue Math majors in college and their planned future occupations after college. The brief explores differences in students' future plans by gender, race, and ethnicity, as well as how confident they are in these plans. Finally, the alignment between students' planned college major and planned occupation are examined.

Data Collection Activities

As a reminder, the *online survey* of current and former students involved in the Alliance is currently open. **Students who complete the survey will be entered into a drawing for Amazon.com giftcards (one \$200 giftcard and six \$50 giftcards).** If you have not already responded to the survey, please do so by October 20th using the link that was emailed to you.

If you are attending the Field of Dreams, be on the lookout for invitations to participate in *focus groups* that will take place during the conference.

Questions regarding the Math Alliance Research Study? Please visit our [website](#) or email us at stem@education.illinois.edu.

William Yslas Vélez to be honored with 2014 Humphreys Award



Congratulations to Alliance Mentor William Yslas Vélez on his selection to receive the Gweneth Humphreys Award. The Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) will present the Fourth Annual M. Gweneth Humphreys Award to William Yslas Vélez, Professor of Mathematics and University Distinguished Professor at the University of Arizona, at the Joint Mathematical Meetings in Baltimore, MD in January 2014.

Vélez is known for his ability to encourage women to study mathematics and pursue mathematical careers. Particularly impressive is his success in instilling confidence in first generation and minority students who are often struggling to overcome expectations based on cultural gender. [Click here](#) to read the whole press release from the Association for Women in Mathematics.

Opportunity for early-career mathematicians:

The AMS has a grant from the National Science Foundation to fund travel to the 2014 International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM), to be held August 13 - 21, 2014 in Seoul, Korea. Funding is available for early-career mathematicians (within 6 years of the PhD). This is an exceptional opportunity to attend one of the most important gatherings of the world's leading mathematicians. The online application can be accessed by [clicking here](#) and must be submitted by November 15. Additional information about the International Congress can be found on the [Seoul ICM 2014 website](#).

Opportunity for undergraduates:

The AMS has a grant from the National Science Foundation to provide scholarships of \$9,000 to study for a semester in the Math in Moscow program at the Independent University of Moscow. The program introduces students to the Russian style of learning mathematics. The courses are taught in English by distinguished Russian mathematics professors. A recent participant said, "It was an amazing and unforgettable experience, intellectually and culturally, to study at the Independent University of Moscow." The deadline for spring 2014 has past, but consideration for the Math in Moscow for the fall 2014 semester is still open. More information can be found at the [AMS site](#) and the [Independent University of Moscow site](#).