Welcome back from spring break. I hope you all had a relaxing and refreshing week. We have had a busy semester so far with two guest speakers from Harvard, Eric Mazur (HHMI and NASD guest lecturer) and Cherry Murray (Gentile Lecturer). We recorded both presentations, so if you weren’t able to attend Eric Mazur’s presentation “Assessment: The Silent Killer of Learning” or Cherry Murray’s talk “The Electricity Grid”, click on the titles and you can watch the recordings.

We have another visitor coming soon: Dr. Barbara Oakley, author of A Mind for Numbers. Many of us have read and discussed her book, and are looking forward to a dynamic and engaging visit from her on Monday, March 30th. She will be discussing developing online courses at 9:30 (she has had a very successful MOOC, “Learning How to Learn”, offered through UC San Diego and Coursera), and will give her presentation “Learning How to Learn” at both 4:00 and at 7:30. We have multiple discussion opportunities in the afternoon, for those of you who would like to meet with her personally or in a small group. Please email hhmi@hope.edu to let us know if you would like to do so.

**HHMI Lunch Programs**

We plan on having two more lunch discussions in April. One will be to continue our conversations on Course-base research experiences assessment. The goal will be to identify ways to collaborate and coordinate our assessment efforts.

We will also begin discussing the next HHMI proposal. The RFP has not yet been issued, but we’ve heard a bit about what they have in mind. Join us to learn more and to start brainstorming on what we should do next.

**Faculty Research Awards**

This past fall, we received six excellent proposals for the Faculty Research Award program which had $30,000 available to support faculty research projects. We were able to support four projects, which engaged a total of seven faculty members in these research programs.

- **Chuck Cusack** (Computer Science) and Airat Bekmetjev (Mathematics): Exploration of Graham’s Conjecture in Graph Pebbling
- **Jianhua Li** (Biology), **Greg Murray** (Biology) and **Kenneth Brown** (Chemistry): An Interdisciplinary Study of Bocconia and Macleaya (Poppy Relatives): Systematic Relationships, Invasive History, and Chemical Profiles
- **Courtney Peckens** (Engineering): Development of Wireless Sensor
Node for Structural Monitoring and Damage Detection in Civil Infrastructure

Katie Polasek (Engineering): Mathematical Models to Predict Nerve Activation to Develop a Treatment for Phantom Limb Pain

Course-based Research Experience Awards
In February, we received six excellent proposals for the Course-based Research Experience Curriculum Development program which had $25,000 available. We were able to support four projects, which engaged a total of seven faculty members in these research programs.

Benjamin Kopek (Biology): Virology

Ryan McFall (Computer Science), Alex Galarza (Mellon Scholars), Barry Bandstra (Religion), Aaron Best (Biology) and Brent Krueger (Chemistry): Computational Foundations with Applications Modules

Renata van der Weijden (GES), Graham Peaslee (Chemistry and GES) and Jon Peterson (GES): Laboratory Methods in Environmental Science

Suzanne DeVries-Zimmerman (GES), Brian Bodenbender (GES) and Ed Hansen (GES): Historical Geology and Surficial Geology

CSI
This summer, the Center for STEM Inquiry will host several STEM Academies for middle and high school students parallel to the K-8 Hope Summer Science Camps. Academy topics range from 3D Printing to Air Quality Monitoring. Check out the CSI website to learn more. If you know of teachers or organizations who could help us spread the word about these great opportunities, please pass along the web address or get them in touch with Susan Ipri-Brown (browns@hope.edu).

FACES at Hope
FACES has had an outstanding year! We have had many well attended and informative events including a visit to Hudsonville Ice Cream, a resume/networking session, a summer research session, a peer led study skills session, and many faculty lunches. We would like to thank those of you who have led, attended, and supported our FACES events this year. A special thank you as well to those of you who contacted me with the names of students who you feel could benefit from the program; it is my pleasure to reach out to these students. We are beginning the process of recruiting the next FACES cohort. If you have any suggestions of current Hope students that would be great mentors for incoming students please contact Anna Bonnema (bonnema@hope.edu).