

# MSCS MESS

Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science  
St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057  
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## Practicum Colloquium TODAY

Title: MSCS Practicum  
Time: 3:30 PM  
Date: February 10  
Place: RNS 310

**About the Talk:** The MSCS Practicum is an Interim course in which teams of students work on consulting projects for external clients. This Interim, students worked to build a health insurance recommendation system, design and evaluate algorithms for pairing liver donors with recipients, and analyze the efficiency of warehouse operations. At the MSCS colloquium on February 10, each team will give a 15-minute overview of their project. This colloquium will be of particular interest to students who would like to be a part of the MSCS Practicum when it is next offered in Interim 2022.

## Friday's Research Seminar

Title: How Changes In Orbital Elements Could Affect Earth's Climate  
Speaker: Harini Chandramouli  
Time: 3:40 PM  
Date: February 14  
Place: RNS 204

**About the Talk:** The details of the way in which the Earth orbits the Sun can have profound effects on Earth's climate. Elements such as the Earth's tilt or how tight the orbit is can affect temperature distribution or glacial formation. One event that could lead to such changes is if a star passes near our solar system close enough to disturb Earth's orbit. These disturbances in the orbit could have lasting effects on the climate of Earth and could poten-

tially explain some anomalies in past climate data.



**About the Speaker:** Harini Chandramouli is a PhD student in Applied Mathematics at the University of Minnesota. She is interested in applied dynamical systems and their applications to celestial mechanics and climate. Outside of academics, she enjoys traveling, cooking, reading, and dancing.

## MUDAC 2020 Data Analytics Competition

Registration for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Midwest Undergraduate Data Analytics Competition is now open! It is a 24-hour student hackathon focusing on solving a challenging problem using data. It will also include a networking opportunity for students and employers. Unfortunately, this event will take place during our Spring Break. Nevertheless, Professor Roback is willing to organize teams and facilitate registration, though will not be able to attend the competition. Interested students should send him a note ([roback@stolaf.edu](mailto:roback@stolaf.edu)). More information on the competition is available at [mudac.org](http://mudac.org).

## Biostatistics Research Opportunity

Health Scholars at the Mayo Clinic is a program for St. Olaf students to intern at the Mayo Clinic during the summer and live together in Rochester. This year's offering includes three programs in collaborative biostatistics research in anesthesiology,

ovarian cancer, and computational genomics. Students must have completed Statistical Modeling (STAT 272), be current Junior or Sophomore, and be in good academic standing. Applications are due before 11:59 p.m. on February 14. More information is available [here](#).

*To submit an article, event, or anything else for publication in the mess, email [jadkow1@stolaf.edu](mailto:jadkow1@stolaf.edu); to receive the Mess digitally each Friday, email [habero1@stolaf.edu](mailto:habero1@stolaf.edu); visit <http://wp.stolaf.edu/mscs/mcs-mess/> for a digital archive of previous MSCS Mess issues.*

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