

Team U.S.A. Earns Gold and Silver Medals at the International Biology Olympiad

The Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) announces four-member Team USA was awarded three Gold Medals and one Silver Medal at the 27th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) held in Hanoi, Vietnam.

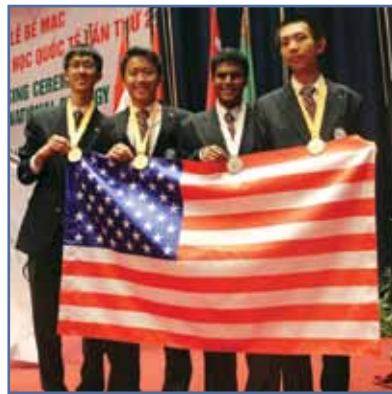
Team USA 2016 Gold Medalists are:

- Boyang (Peter) Dun, Canterbury School, Fort Wayne, Indiana
- Bowen Jing, West Lafayette Jr./Sr. High School, West Lafayette, Indiana
- Thomas Xiong, Seven Lakes High School, Katy, Texas

Team USA 2016 Silver Medalist is:

- Varkey Alumootil, Canyon Crest Academy, San Diego, California

Kathy Frame, Team USA Coach and Director of the USA Biology Olympiad at CEE, accompanied Team USA to the IBO, along with Alena James, Lab Coordinator, Biology and Physical Sciences, at Marymount University.



2016 Team USA at the 27th International Biology Olympiad, pictured from left to right: Thomas Xiong (Gold), Boyang (Peter) Dun (Gold), Varkey Alumootil (Silver), Bowen Jing (Gold)

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CEE Alumni Take 1st and 2nd at Intel

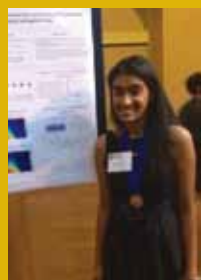
The Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) takes pride that 2015 Research Science Institute (RSI) Alumnus Amol Punjabi, 17, of Marlborough, MA, was awarded the \$150,000 First Place Award for Basic Research in the prestigious Intel Science Talent Search. Amol was selected for his research and development of software that could help drug makers develop new therapies for cancer and heart disease.

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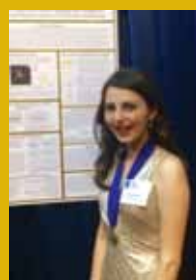


RSI '15 Alumni Amol Punjabi, First Place Awardee, shares the spotlight with Meena Jagadeesan, Second Place Scholarship Winner, at the Intel Science Talent Search Awards Dinner.

Additional RSI '15 finalists at the Intel Science Talent Search Competition:



Sreya Vemuri, Indiana



Claire Burch, California

CEE Alumni Capital Campaign Success

The Alumni Capital Campaign raised **\$389,452** to fund CEE's priority to ensure its programs are sustained in the future. The alumni far **exceeded** their goal by 73%. The Campaign will enable RSI and USABO to remain free of cost to future young scholars.

To date, the Center for Excellence in Education has proudly influenced the lives of over 2,770 RSI and USABO Alumni who are leaders in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and business. ♦

Alumni Participation Award: RSI '15 with a 34% participation rate

USABO alumni participation increased 150% over their 2013-2014 Capital Campaign

Class Award For Most Funds Raised: RSI '94 with \$88,300

RSI 4th of July Esplande Trip Sponsor: RSI '15

Follow CEE on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube!



The 33rd Research Science Institute at MIT

Eighty-two U.S. and international scholars attended the 33rd annual Research Science Institute (RSI), held on the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). During their 6 week program, students conducted original, cutting edge research in state-of-the-art university laboratories, hospitals, and corporate research facilities.

RSI consists of one week of theoretical classroom work, followed by four-and-a-half weeks of research with a professor or research scientist in each student's respective areas of interest. In the final week, students present their work through written academic papers and oral communication to their peers before a panel of judges.

The students selected for RSI are exemplary as demonstrated by their high school records, personal essays, standardized test scores, teacher recommendations, research experience, potential for leadership, and honors and awards in math and science. The students, dubbed "Rickoids" after the late Admiral H.G. Rickover, study pure and applied mathematics, physical and biological science, economics, engineering, computer science, and humanities.

Thirty international students joined the U.S. students from Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, India, Israel, Lebanon, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey.

RSI '07 Alumnus, Nicole Nova, D.D.S. and Ph.D. Student, Department of Biology, Stanford University, directed RSI 2016. The RSI Academic Professors included:

- Dr. Christopher Skinner, RSI '88, Princeton University – Mathematics
- Dr. Forrest Michael, RSI '90, University of Washington – Chemistry
- Dr. Matthew Cain, RSI '97, U.S. Army Natick Soldier R&D and Engineering Center - Biology
- Dr. Jason Nielsen, RSI '89, University of California, Santa Cruz – Physics
- Dr. Steven Leeb, MIT – Engineering
- Mr. Lance Rhoades, University of Washington – Humanities

At the *RSI Distinguished Guest Lecture Series*, RSI scholars learned about the careers, achievements, and challenges of the STEM environment and participated in question and answer sessions. Esteemed Nobel Laureates Dr. H. Robert Horvitz, 2002 Nobel Laureate, Professor, Department of Biology,

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Dr. Eric Maskin, 2007 Nobel Laureate, Department of Economics, Harvard University shared their career journey with the scholars.

The RSI 2016 Closing Keynote Address was presented by Mr. Rasheed Sabar, RSI '00, CEE Trustee, and Managing Director at Ellington Management Group.

The Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) has held steadfast to its goal of offering RSI cost-free to competitively selected top achieving students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This is all made possible through collaborations with educational institutions, private foundations, corporations, government agencies, and individuals who share a commitment to educational excellence and leadership. RSI has nearly 2,500 successful alumni with an 80% STEM career retention rate. ♦



Klee Dienes, RSI '88 is the first alumnus to have children chosen to attend the Research Science Institute (RSI). CEE is proud that Andy and Tom participated in RSI '16 - - the legacy lives on!

Andy and Tom Dienes with their parents as they arrive at MIT to begin the RSI experience

Research Science Institute 2016 Distinguished Written and Oral Presentations

Written Awards

- **Clara-Ann Cheng Ling:** *Determining Crystal Orientation via Reflection High Energy Electron Diffraction* – Mentored by Dr. Ilija Zeljkovic, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, Boston College
- **Dimitar Karev:** *Cyber Threat Hunting through the use of an Isolation Forest* – Mentored by Mr. Chris McCubbin, Co-Founder and Director of Data Science, SQRRL and Mr. Ruslan Vaulin, Senior Data Scientist, SQRRL
- **Yuhua Lim:** *Claudin – 18 Function in Gastric Parietal Cell Regulates the Hippo Signaling Transduction Pathway* – Mentored by Dr. Susan Hagen, Associate Professor of Surgery and Associate Vice Chair for Research, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School Teaching Hospital

Oral Awards

- **Lia Eggleston:** *Gravitational Mesolensing: Analysis of Bright, Nearby Events from OGLE* – Mentored by Dr. Rosanne Di Stefano, Lecturer and SAO Physicist, Department of Astronomy, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Harvard University
- **Caleb He:** *On the Spectral Invariance of Ellipses in Convex, Planar Domains* – Mentored by Dr. Tanya Khovanova, Department of Mathematics, MIT and Mr. Ethan Yale Jaffe, Graduate Student, Department of Mathematics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

(continued on page 4)



Teacher Enrichment Program,
Natasha Schuh-Nuhfer Ph.D.
Director

“The true college will ever have one goal --- not to earn meat, but to know the end and aim of that life which meat nourishes.”

W.E.B. DuBois

CEE Mourns

Shea Gardner, RSI'86, an outstanding member of the Rickoid Family, lost her valiant battle to cancer. Shea was a scientist at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. She received her Ph.D. in Population Biology from the University of California, Davis.

Shea's passions were education and environment. Shea demonstrated a sense of wonder and an excitement for life's discoveries.

She will be remembered as a treasured member of the CEE family. ♦



Teacher Enrichment Program Presents Exploring the “T” in STEM

The Teacher Enrichment Program held two half-day professional enrichment workshops for middle and high school teachers, titled *Exploring the “T” in STEM: Impacts of Technology on Science and Engineering*, in Richmond and Tysons Corner, Virginia in June. Both events exceeded expectations with teachers filling both event spaces to capacity!

Through coverage of cutting-edge research across the globe (3D modeling, cyber security insight, musical flies!) and hands-on activities (iPad apps for the classroom, virtual reality glasses, math games) teachers had the opportunity to strengthen their STEM content knowledge, discover inspiring STEM stories, and network with STEM professionals and fellow teachers from their teaching disciplines.

Teachers learned first-hand the challenges and exciting opportunities that are found in STEM fields today. Presentation topics focused on *Advances in Technology for Biological Research, Technology Impact on Engineering Design, Cybersecurity, Technology and the Internet of Things, and Uses of Technology for the STEM Classroom*. Each speaker explained how technology has expanded opportunities for research and development, increased productivity, engineering design, and experimental processes, and how students can best be prepared to tackle the challenges that lie ahead in these fields.

CEE’s Exploring the “T” in STEM workshop in Tysons featured:

- **Sean Kanuck, RSI '88**, Cybersecurity Consultant, Former National Intelligence Officer for Cyber Issues
- **Misha Nikulin**, Manager, Emerging Technology, Information Systems & Technology, Bechtel
- **David Stern, Ph.D.**, Group Leader, Janelia Research Campus, Howard Hughes Medical Institute
- **Padmanabhan Seshaiyer, Ph.D.**, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Director, STEM Accelerator Program, College of Science, George Mason University

CEE’s Exploring the “T” in STEM workshop in Richmond featured:

- **Kevin Hurt, PE.**, Senior Hydraulic Engineer, Transportation, AECOM
- **Jonathan P. DeShazo, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, Associate Director, Enterprise Informatics, Co-director, Biomedical Informatics Core Activity, Center for Clinical and Translational Research, Virginia Commonwealth University
- **Erika Carson**, Outreach Program Coordinator, Science Museum of Virginia ♦



Research Science Institute 2016 Distinguished Written and Oral Presentations

(from page 2)

- **Adam Snowden:** *The Effect of Wnt/Beta-Catenin Signaling Inhibition on Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma* – Mentored by Dr. Maria Kukuruzinska, Professor, Department of Molecular & Cell Biology and Associate Dean for Research, Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine and Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, Boston University Medical Center and Mr. Khalid Alamoud, Graduate Student, Boston University

Awards for Both Oral & Written

- **Kathy Liu:** *Development of a Metal Halide Chemical Vapor Deposition Process for Photovoltaics and Thin Film Technology* – Mentored by Dr. Roy G. Gordon Thomas Dudley Cabot Professor of Chemistry and Professor of Materials Science Director of the Center for Nanoscale Systems, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Harvard University and Ms. Christina Chang, RSI '07 and Ph.D. Student, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Gordon Research Group, Harvard University and Ms. Rachel Heasley, Ph.D. Student, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Gordon Research Group, Harvard University
- **Dhruv Rohatgi:** *When Two-Holed Torus Graphs are Hamiltonian* – Mentored by Dr. Tanya Khovanova, Department of Mathematics, MIT and Mr. Chiheon Kim, Graduate Student, Theoretical Computer Science, Optimization, Combinatorics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

RICKOIDS of the Year

Awardees chosen by peers at RSI in honor of Admiral H.G. Rickover, Father of the Nuclear Navy and Civilian Uses of Nuclear Power.



Kathy Liu, West High School, Salt Lake City, Utah

- **Kathy Liu:** *Development of a Metal Halide Chemical Vapor Deposition Process for Photovoltaics and Thin Film Technology* – Mentored by Dr. Roy G. Gordon Thomas Dudley Cabot Professor of Chemistry and Professor of Materials Science Director of the Center for Nanoscale Systems, Department of Chemistry & Chemical Biology, Harvard University and Ms. Christina Chang, RSI '07 and Ph.D. Student, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Gordon Research Group, Harvard University and Ms. Rachel Heasley, Ph.D. Student, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Gordon Research Group, Harvard University



Joshua Zhou, North Carolina School of Science & Math, Durham, North Carolina

- **Joshua Zhou:** *Accelerating High Resolution 3D Printing of Hydrogel Microstructures as Scaffolds for Tissue Regeneration* – Mentored by Mr. German Alberto Parada, Graduate Student, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) ♦

Team U.S.A. Earns Gold and Silver Medals at the International Biology Olympics in Hanoi, Vietnam

(from page 1)

Over 10,000 U.S. students from across the U.S. registered for the highly competitive USABO. Twenty finalists from 10 states were selected to compete in the USABO Finals at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia. Finalists also participated in lectures, study sessions and laboratory exercises led by biology experts in fields that include cellular & molecular biology, plant anatomy & physiology, animal anatomy & physiology, genetics & evolution, ecology, ethology, and biosystematics. This marks the first year Marymount University has hosted the Finals with CEE.

The mission of the USABO is to encourage excellence in biology education throughout the United States and to challenge students and their teachers to reach the gold standard in biology. Alumni of the USABO have earned MacMillan Grants, Goldwater Scholarships, Hollings Scholarships (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), American Heart Association Undergraduate Fellowships, National Science Foundation Fellowships, The Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans, the Linen Prize in Chinese, and the Clara Levillain Prize. They have also received accolades as Marshall Scholars and Churchill Scholars. ♦

About Team USA at the International Biology Competitions

All Team USA Members have medaled since the United States first competed at the IBO in 2003, garnering a total of 45 gold, 9 silver, and 2 bronze medals. Team USA achieved the coveted "Number 1 Position in the World" in 2011 and 2013.

Saudi Aramco Research Science Initiative for Young Females



SARSI 2016 Academic Staff

The Saudi Aramco Research Science Initiative (SARSI), in its second year in Saudi Arabia, partners with the Center for Excellence in Education (CEE), the University of Dammam, The King Abdulaziz and His Companions Foundation for Giftedness and Creativity (MAWHIBA), and Saudi Aramco. This initiative served 42 high-achieving 10th grade girls, to encourage science, technology, engineering and mathematical (STEM) studies.

SARSI was held this past summer at the University of Dammam for 5 weeks where like-minded, hardworking, females were immersed in STEM research. The program provides rigorous instruction, individualized mentorships, and laboratory experiences for young female scholars.



Dr. Amy Sillman, RSI '84, Director, Saudi Aramco RSI, President, Sillman Consulting, LLC

The Saudi Initiative was led by Dr. Amy Sillman, an '84 alumna of the Research Science Institute (RSI), who shared responsibilities with Wadha Almatarr, University of Damman Lecturer.

"SARSI was a unique opportunity for secondary school women in Saudi Arabia to experience the process of scientific research firsthand," said Dr. Amy Sillman, Director of Saudi Aramco RSI. "It was also an excellent opportunity for these budding scientists to build relationships with other women in STEM fields across the Kingdom, and to join the global CEE community." ♦



SARSI female scholar completes her research project in a University lab.

CEE has partnered with more than 53 countries with collaborative agreements negotiated by Joann DiGennaro, CEE's President. The Center was the first U.S. organization to receive high school students from People's Republic of China, India, and the Balkan and Baltic nations. RSI programs are in Bulgaria, China, India, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Singapore.

Research Science Initiative in Chennai, India Valedictory Ceremony at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)



Joann DiGennaro, CEE President, presented comments and awarded certificates at the Valedictory event of RSI Chennai 2016.



"Those who are the most deeply devoted to a democratic society must be precisely the ones who insist upon excellence....the idea for which this nation stands will not survive if the highest goal free men can set themselves is an amiable mediocrity."

Dr. John W. Gardner - Excellence: Can We Be Equal and Excellent Too? 1961

BioOlympiad Initiative USA-CHINA (BIO USACN)

USA-CHINA BIOlympiad Initiative

The BioOlympiad Initiative USA-China (BIO USACN) will be inaugurated in March 2017 as a collaboration between CEE and ASDAN, a British charity organization that provides educational opportunities for young people through its award winning programs. Biology students in the People's Republic of China will have the opportunity to take the USA Biology Olympiad (USABO) Open Exam.

Students that attend Chinese government schools compete in the Chinese Biology Olympiad which leaves thousands of students attending non-governmental private schools without the opportunity to compete. CEE partnered with ASDAN to allow young Chinese biology scholars the opportunity to experience a level of international competitiveness. All of the BIO USACN testing will occur regionally on the same day throughout China to ensure fairness and quality control of the competition. Trained proctors, who have been certified, will administer the test and adhere to official testing guidelines as agreed upon by CEE and ASDAN.

BIO USACN will culminate with comparative results of the U.S. and Chinese students. Overlay histograms will be generated to weigh rankings. This will provide students in China an opportunity to determine how their results compare against the same questions, criteria, and standards as answered by U.S. students.

CEE, USA Biology Olympiad (USABO), and ASDAN are expanding the biology footprint. Through the BIO USACN, additional Chinese students will be afforded the opportunity to compete in an international competition format. ♦

Research Science Initiative at Tsinghua University

Coming off a highly successful Inaugural year, the Research Science Initiative opened its second year with a ceremony led by Tsinghua Directors Dr. Yi Zhang, Dr. John Dell, and Joann DiGennaro, CEE's President. The academic performance of last year's students was beyond expectations with one student's work, co-authored with his mentor, recently published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. This summer's RSI program served 40 Chinese High School 10th and 11th graders from schools throughout China and North America.



Dr. Prof., Yi Zhang
Co-Director, RSI Tsinghua University
Head for Institute of Systems Engineering, Director for Joint Lab of Intelligent Transportation Systems, Tsinghua University

Dr. Zhang, Head for the Institute of Systems Engineering at Tsinghua University, was instrumental in bringing RSI to China during his tenure as Vice Provost and Director of International Cooperation and Exchange. Dr. John Dell, a longtime CEE friend and leader in the RSI community, has previously served as program director of the Research Science Institute at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

(MIT) and the Saudi Research Science Institute (S-RSI) at KAUST in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.



Dr. John Dell
Co-Director, RSI Tsinghua University
Center for Excellence in Education
Senior Teacher, Advanced Physics Courses, Thomas Jefferson High School
Alexandria, Virginia

Dr. John Dell stated, "RSI Tsinghua 2016 brought the RSI experience to forty outstanding Chinese students this summer with substantial research projects in myriad frontier areas ranging from theoretical investigations in Temporal Quantum Entanglement to designing ships that glide on water surface tension, from the dynamics of large scale energy delivery networks in China to methods for reducing pollution and contamination in China's 'Wuli Cancer Village'.

Students attended evening lectures from first tier Chinese entrepreneurs, leaders in the diagnosis and treatment of hereditary brain disease, and a Nobel Physics Laureate. We had a big finish at RSI Tsinghua 2016."

The RSI took place over 6 weeks on Tsinghua University's Beijing campus. The program began with a week of lectures presented by RSI alumni and Tsinghua faculty members as follows:

- Dr. Swiatoslaw Gal, RSI '95, University of Wroclaw, Poland – Math
- Dr. Forrest Michael, RSI '90, University of Washington – Chemistry
- Mr. Lance Rhoades, University of Washington – Humanities
- Professor Mingguo Zhao, Tsinghua University – Engineering
- Professor Bo Hong, Tsinghua University – Biology
- Professor Michael Bisset, Tsinghua University - Physics

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Research Science Initiative 2016 students with their counselors, tutors, professors, co-directors, and Ms. D. at Tsinghua University.

Nearly 100 CEE Alumni Gather at Pinterest

CEE Alumni from 1984 to 2015 gathered at Pinterest headquarters in San Francisco to celebrate the Research Science Institute, USA Biology Olympiad and lifelong friendships! Ben Silbermann, RSI '98, and Pinterest CEO, hosted this exciting event. Rickoids continue to build the CEE community with camaraderie and support for the Center's educational programs. ♦



"RSI has done such a fantastic job recruiting some of the most brilliant, future scientists, engineers, doctors from around the world and from around the United States. I think it's great that everybody stays in touch. The older generations can pass down some of the experiences they've learned, but also learn from the younger generations, some of the new ideas. I think it's such a vibrant community and it's going to continue to contribute to society."

-William Yang, M.D., Ph.D., RSI '85

"For me personally, RSI was life changing. It allowed me to really dig into scientific topics and push myself at a really young age to do some really interesting academic work that I wouldn't have had access to living in rural Indiana. That was huge for me in terms of getting me ready for college and ready for my career."

-Josanna Weeks Haspel, RSI '01

"I often say that RSI was one of the most transformative experiences of my youth. It was the first time I felt like I met a lot of people like me, who were really interested in the things I was interested in. I remember thinking everyone here is so interested in the pursuit of knowledge, to truth, and to depth. The concept of not just about knowing the answer in surface ways, it's really investigating and asking 'why.' I think for that reason, I found a community in RSI, that I haven't found anywhere else."

-Varoon Bashykarla, RSI '08

CEE Alumni Capital Campaign

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CEE Alumni Take 1st and 2nd at Intel

(from page 1)

Meena Jagadeesan, 17, of Naperville, IL took Second Place Honors and the \$75,000 Scholarship for Basic Research. Her investigation, focused on an object in algebraic combinatorics, or the mathematics of counting, to reveal a novel relationship between classes of graphs.

Mr. Punjabi and Ms. Jagadeesan participated in the Center's 2015 Research Science Institute (RSI), a six-week summer enrichment program jointly sponsored by CEE and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). To date, RSI alumni have included 545 Intel Science Talent Search semifinalists, 154 finalists, and 11 first-place winners. ♦



CEE's Rickoids at the Congressional Luncheon 2016 with Maite Ballestero, Executive Vice President of Programs/Administration.

Congressional Luncheon and Chocolate Decadence

The Kennedy Caucus Room in the Russell Senate Office Building is known as the most famous room in the Capitol. Originally intended for party caucuses and meetings, the room has served as the stage for dramatic Senate investigations: the sinking of the Titanic, the Teapot Dome Scandal, Pearl Harbor, the Kefauver Crime Committee, Army vs. McCarthy, Vietnam War, and Watergate. On April 20, 2016, the room served as a stage for the CEE Congressional Luncheon, sponsored by the National Confectioners Association (NCA). The room was filled with the Center's sponsors, friends, program alumni, and the sweet smell of decadent chocolate.

"It is a pleasure and honor for us to be here today to celebrate and recognize the importance of STEM education," said John Downs, President and CEO of the National Confectioners Association. "We get a chance to talk about the development of future leaders in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math. The scholarship programs, the competitions, and the Teacher Enrichment Program that CEE operates, are first class in our country."

Mel Chaskin, CEE's Chairman, Joann DiGennaro, CEE's President and John Downs, President and CEO of the National Confectioners Association, provided remarks. The luncheon celebrated the success of CEE's Research Science Institute (RSI), the USA Biology Olympiad



Congresswoman Barbara Comstock, Representing the 10th District of Virginia.

"STEM education is about the future, it's about how we are going to continue to lead the world – in economy, in competitiveness. It all comes down to if we are going to be the leaders on STEM."



Congressman Rob Wittman, Representing the 1st District of Virginia

"We all know that the areas of entrepreneurship, innovation, creation, all come from those areas where we encourage students to think in the realm of science, technology, engineering, and math."



Congressman Scott Peters, Representing the 52nd District of California

"As the economy continues to change, we have to expand opportunities, prepare students from all communities by access to quality and affordable education."

(USABO), and the Teacher Enrichment Program (TEP). The Center recognizes that global competition makes it essential for the U.S. to support teachers for their students' breakthrough discoveries in health, environment, national security, energy, and agriculture.

The Senate Caucus Room also yielded the floor to CEE Alumni, Dr. Pam Taub, RSI '93, of University of California San Diego Health, and to Intel 2016 First Place Winner, Amol Punjabi, RSI '15. Both highlighted the profound impact the Research Science Institute (RSI) made in their lives. To everyone's delight, Dr. Taub prescribed two squares of dark chocolate per day to their daily diet. Her years of research show that cocoa

and dark chocolate can play a beneficial role in patients' lives who suffer from high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart attacks. Amol awed the attendees by describing the expansion of his RSI project which garnered the \$150,000 First Place Award for Basic Research at the prestigious Intel Science Talent Search. He was selected for his research and development of software that could help drug makers advance new therapies for cancer and heart disease.

Congresswoman Barbara Comstock, CEE Honorary Board Member (VA), Congressman Scott Peters (CA), and Congressman Rob Wittman (VA) provided STEM commentary that supports CEE's programs. ♦

CEE Connects and Expands the CEE Community through Webinars

CEE is excited to provide interactive webinars as an additional connection for alumni, parents, CEE friends, and the global community.

Communication –

CEE continues to connect, collaborate, and support CEE scholars and STEM teachers all over the U.S. – and globally!

Alumni –

CEE hosts career webinars for Alumni to connect with cutting-edge companies and organizations to learn about internships and job opportunities.

Support –

CEE provides informative webinars to support parents when their child attends CEE’s programs and connects parents to other parents, CEE staff, and members of the CEE community.

Multi-media –

CEE webinars are recorded and posted on CEE’s YouTube Channel under *Center for Excellence in Education*, available for public interest. ♦

CEE Webinar Highlights



- Alumni Internship & Career Opportunities**
Companies Participated: Akamai Technologies, Celgene, Ellington Management Group, United Technologies Corporation
- Parent Questions Answered About RSI!**
Webinar Lead: Dr. Douglas Himberger, CEE Board of Trustees
Webinar Guests: Past RSI Parents talk in-depth about the RSI experience for their children
Participation: 51 parents of the class of RSI '16 from the U.S. and other nations
- Alumni Internship & Career Opportunities**
Companies Participated: Cisco Systems, D.E. Shaw Research, Lockheed Martin, Thermo Fisher Scientific
- College Financial Aid Support**
Featuring: Mark Kantrowitz, RSI '84, financial aid expert and CEE Board of Trustees
Participation: RSI and USABO parents and students of the class of '14, '15, and '16 learned about financial aid issues

CEE Resource Advisory Committee

The Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) [Resource Advisory Committee \(RAC\)](#) has been established to develop and foster an active network of alumni, parents, volunteers, and friends committed to supporting and promoting CEE.

Dr. Douglas Himberger, CEE Trustee and President of DE Himberger Consulting, LLC, and Dr. Elisabeth Vrahopoulou, Senior Fuels Policy Advisor at ExxonMobil and RSI '10 parent, are co-chairs the Committee.

Two very successful RAC events have been held to date. A Webinar was held to answer questions for RSI '16 parents. Dr. Elisabeth Vrahopoulou and Marli Pasternak, RSI Parents, also met with Washington metropolitan RSI '16 local parents for a lovely luncheon. The “new” parents learned more about CEE, the current and long-term benefits for their children as RSI alumni, and ways to get involved to sustain CEE’s programs. ♦

Research Science Initiative at Tsinghua University *(from page 6)*

The four week research projects, led by distinguished faculty members from Tsinghua University, focused on subjects from synthetic biology to electrical engineering. Tutors, Counselors and Writing Coaches (including RSI@MIT alums, Tsinghua graduate students and Teacher Enrichment Program teachers) supported the students every step of the way. ♦



Counselor Jason Sia RSI '12, Distinguished Guest Lecturer, Dr. William Yang RSI '85, with RSI Director, Dr. John Dell, with Lead Tutor, Er Liu, RSI '84.

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