

CENTERLINE

Excellence

Center for Excellence in Education

TEAM U.S.A. EARNS GOLD; NAMED #1 TEAM IN THE WORLD AT THE INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD



Team USA 2017 at the 28th International Biology Olympiad, Pictured from left: Edward Lee of Texas, Alexander Tsao of California, Catherine Wang of Massachusetts, and Thomas Xiong of Texas

Team USA made a strong showing at the IBO, earning four Gold Medals and the coveted #1 world ranking from the **28th International Biology Olympiad (IBO)** held at *The University of Warwick* in Coventry, United Kingdom.

A total of 264 students from 68 countries participated in IBO 2017. CEE's Team USA 2017 High School IBO Gold Medalists along with their individual rankings:

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RSI '17 INCLUDES TOP U.S. & INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS; PAYRA NAMED RICKOID OF THE YEAR

A select group of the highest-performing high school students in science and mathematics from the U.S. and 15 other countries attended CEE's prestigious Research Science Institute (RSI), a program jointly sponsored with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The 34th annual RSI program welcomed 80 scholars on June 25th for the intensive, six week program where students conducted original, cutting edge research in state-of-the-art university laboratories, hospitals, and corporate research facilities.

RSI students (nicknamed "Rickoids" after the late CEE founder Admiral H.G. Rickover) were challenged with a week of theoretical classroom work, followed by four-and-a-half weeks of research with a professor or research scientist in the students' respective areas of interest. The program hit the highest point during the final week when students demonstrated their work through written academic papers and oral findings to their peers. Awards were present-

(continued on page 2)

BILL MCINTYRE, VP *Communications*

USABO AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO

The USA Biology Olympiad (USABO) has a new home. Beginning in 2018, USABO will take place at the *University of California San Diego (UCSD)*. The official announcement was made at CEE's Congressional Luncheon in April 2017 by Ms. Angela Phillips Diaz, Executive Director, Government Research Relations, UCSD.

CEE's President Joann DiGennaro described the news as "a wonderful opportunity for USABO scholars to be exposed to UCSD research and faculty."

DiGennaro added that the new USABO host site is the result of a collaboration between CEE and UCSD, with the help of Dr. Pam Taub (RSI '93), general cardiologist and Associate Professor of medicine at UCSD.

"I'm thrilled that I've been able to help bring USABO to its new home at the University of California, San Diego. This is a marvelous chance for biology scholars to broaden their exposure to UCSD research," said Taub who is also the director of the Step Cardiac Wellness and Rehabilitation Center. ■



Dr. Pam Taub (left) RSI '93, general cardiologist and Associate Professor of medicine at UCSD. Angela Phillips Diaz (right), Executive Director, Government Research Relations, UCSD.



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ed by a panel of judges for outstanding presentation and written research.

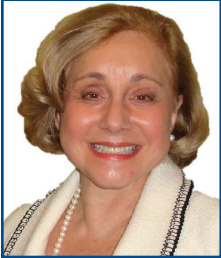
Rickoids are selected for RSI following a rigorous application process that includes exemplary high school records, personal essays, standardized test scores, teacher recommendations, research experience, potential for leadership, and

accolades in math and science. This year there were 50 U.S. high school rising seniors from 35 states who were joined by 30 international students from Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, India, Lebanon, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey.

Syamantak Payra, a senior at Clear Brook HS in Friendswood, TX, was chosen by his peers for the top honor—Rickoid of the Year—at the Center for Excellence in Education’s (CEE) 34th annual Research Science Institute (RSI). The award recognizes academic acumen, leadership, and personal demeanor.

RSI 2017 was directed by Dr. Amy Sillman, RSI ’84. The RSI 2017 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 Systems Center (Biology); Dr. Jason Nielsen, RSI ’89, University of California, Santa Cruz (Physics); Dr. Steven Leeb, MIT (Engineering); and Mr. Lance Rhoades, University of Washington (Humanities).

SUPPORT TOP ACADEMIC TALENT



Joann DiGennaro is President of the Center for Excellence in Education

“Top achieving high school students need no help; they are white or Chinese; rich; male, and attend private schools.” Like fake media, these myths remain prevalent among the public and repeated by many who know better. This palaver adversely affects support for young scholars who are most able to meet the future challenges posed by the scourges of disease, the threats and destruction to the environment, the horrors of national security attacks, and the plight of millions of starving people waiting for innovation to grow their agricultural production.

For nearly 35 years the Center for Excellence in Education that I helped to found with the late Admiral H.G. Rickover has continually fought for government funding to nurture talent and innovation to keep the U.S. Number One. This, only to observe Congress with its legislation deny educational programs that nurture top scholars to leadership in science and technology. The answer of Congressional leaders to the lack of funding for top academic talent is “There are more pressing needs.” Not a day goes by that the business community does not lament the lack of employment-ready U.S. university graduates in science and technology for their workforce. The public also is increasingly dismayed that perhaps the U.S. is losing its STEM superiority in the global community. As Fortune 500 companies report the lack of qualified STEM employees, they generally do not fund educational programs for the cohort of top academic students, regardless of race, color, or creed, that directly impact their businesses.

Supporting meritocracy should be a national priority. Cannot this nation prioritize rewarding academic achievement while also helping all students to maximize their potential to contribute to this country’s technological and scientific future? ■



The RSI 2017 Closing Keynote Address was presented by CEE Trustee, Dr. Michael Sipser, Dean at MIT’s School of Science. RSI is offered to

competitively selected top achieving students in STEM through collaborations with educational institutions, private foundations, corporations, government agencies, and individuals who share a commitment to educational excellence and leadership. The program is free-of-cost to all selected students. ■

TEACHER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM REACHES 5-YEAR PROGRAMMING MARK; MORE THAN 350,000 STUDENTS REACHED

This past spring, the Teacher Enrichment Program (TEP) celebrated five years of STEM programming for underserved rural and urban middle and high school teachers in California, Florida, Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia. TEP also has been offered in Illinois, Indiana, and Washington, D.C. Since the program's launch in Virginia in 2012, the program has served over 2,235 teachers from

1,060 schools, impacting an estimated 376,475 students.

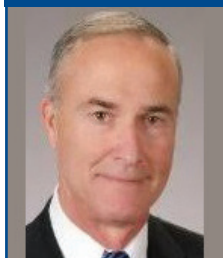
Through TEP, teachers learn about cutting-edge research and development and ways to inspire and guide their students towards STEM careers. To date, 300 STEM professionals from industry, academia, government, and fellow STEM organizations have participated in a TEP event, including a number

of RSI alumni who have given back to CEE by speaking at a Bite of Science, the STEM Teacher Roundtable, or summer workshop. The TEP Lab Bench further supports teachers by providing event videos, slides, and additional resources to use in their classrooms and share with their students. Many thanks to generous alumni and sponsors that have helped the Center to provide TEP programming at no cost to participants. ■

"Bite of Science best serves me as a reminder that there is more than the classroom."

— John Hook, AP Biology Teacher, Elkins High School, Houston, TX

CEE LAUNCHES DOD INTERN PROGRAM



Lt. Gen. (Ret) David Huntoon, CEE Trustee

CEE RSI and USABO alumni completed inaugural summer internships at Department of Defense (DoD) laboratories through funding

provided by Building Engineering and Science Talent (BEST) under a Cooperative Agreement awarded by the Air Force Academy.

CEE received more than 40 applications from RSI and USABO program alumni who attend top-tier colleges and universities. Ten students were successfully placed in laboratories and were challenged with pioneering research. The program became a reality with the help of Lt. Gen. (Ret) David Huntoon, CEE Trustee.

Summer 2018

The application process for Summer 2018 internships is underway. For more information contact CEE's Executive Vice President Maite Ballesteros at Maite@CEE.org. ■

CEE WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Hon. Scott Peters, U.S. House of Representatives (CA52), is a cosponsor of the STEM Opportunities Act of 2017 and a stal-

wart promoter of policies that encourage growth of public-private partnerships to increase STEM opportunities for students; increase the number of women and minorities in STEM fields; and make computer science a core academic subject.



Ms. Cara Esposito, Executive Director, Leonetti/O'Connell Family Foundation, oversees a multi-million dollar grant-making organization focused on educa-

tion, medical disciplines, science and technology. The Leonetti O'Connell Family Foundation is dedicated to supporting grantees that serve Los Angeles County and its residents.



Mr. Siddharth Shenai is an independent investment professional. Previously, Sid was a portfolio manager at Bracebridge Capital and built

and oversaw the firm's developed market rates business, which implemented relative value strategies broadly across cash, futures and OTC derivatives markets.

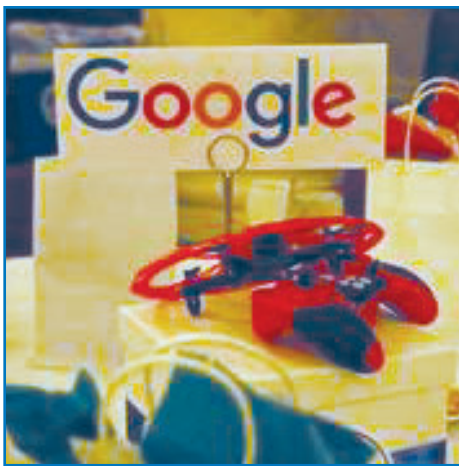


Dr. Feng Zhang, Core Member, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, The Broad Institute, is a pioneer of the revolutionary CRISPR gene-editing technology, TAL effector proteins, and optogenetics. He was recently awarded the 2017 Lemelson-MIT Prize. ■

CEE'S CONGRESSIONAL LUNCHEON SHOWCASED STEM DISCUSSIONS; DR. MEYERS PRESENTED WITH LIEBERMAN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

The Kennedy Senate Caucus Room was abuzz in April with Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) leaders representing Congress, business, and education. Google sponsored the annual CEE Congressional Luncheon.

Mel Chaskin, CEE's Chairman, and Joann DiGennaro, CEE's President, provided remarks. The luncheon revealed in the success of CEE's Research Science Institute (RSI), the USA Biology Olympiad (USABO), and the Teacher Enrichment Program (TEP).



The event celebrated the importance of STEM education and was supported with commentary by Senator Ted Cruz, (TX), Congressman and Honorary Board Member Scott Peters (CA), Congresswoman Jacky Rosen (NV), and Congressmen Bob Goodlatte (VA) and Rob Wittman (VA).

Dr. John Langford, CEO of Aurora Flight Sciences, Manassas, VA, highlighted Aurora's work with drones, Defense Research Projects Agency (DARPA) contract for Phase 2 of



Sen. Joseph Lieberman (left) presents Dr. Lauren Ancel Meyers the Lieberman Award for Excellence at CEE's Congressional Luncheon on Capitol Hill.

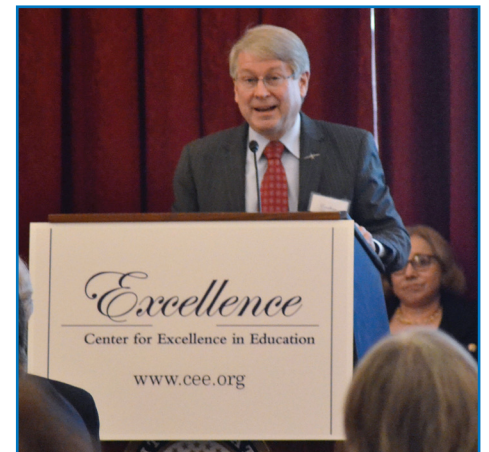
the Vertical Takeoff and Landing Experimental Plane (VTOL X-Plane) program, and the importance of getting students excited and interested in STEM. Dr. Langford closed with, *"Robotics and aviation are combining to truly change the way we fly. Fortunately, these technologies are amendable to experience based learning and open broad new vistas for excellence in education."*

Retired Senator Joseph Lieberman of Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP presented Dr. Lauren Ancel Meyers, Professor of Integrative Biology at the University of Texas at Austin with CEE's Joseph I Lieberman Award for Excellence in Science and Technology and a \$10,000 research stipend. Dr. Meyers stated, *"RSI 1990 was incredibly formative! My cryptography research project, public presentation, and, most of all, my brilliant RSI friends, inspired me to become a scientist, tackling real world challenges using advanced mathematics."* She is also a member of the External Faculty and Scientific Advisory Board of the

Santa Fe Institute. Dr. Meyers attended CEE's RSI'90. She was trained as a mathematical biologist at Harvard and Stanford Universities, and her research foci include network epidemiology, optimization of infectious disease surveillance and control, and translational tools for public health.

The prestigious award is presented every two years to honor Senator Joseph Lieberman, former Senator of Connecticut, and former Honorary Trustee at the Center. Senator Lieberman stated, *"I have a special pride about the Center because it defines talent, educates in STEM fields, raises it up and honors it. When you think what the graduates of the CEE programs have already done for the rest of us, it makes me proud to be part of the CEE legacy and programs."*

The event celebrated 34 years of CEE's success through its impactful STEM education programs. ■



Dr. John Langford, CEO of Aurora Flight Sciences highlights his firm's work with drones and DARPA.

BIOOLYMPIAD INITIATIVE USA-CHINA (BIO ASDAN)

CEE collaborates with ASDAN China to host BioOlympiad Initiative USA-China (BIO USACN), bringing the USABO Open Exam to China for American and Chinese biology learners to compete and engage with the USABO. ■

USA-CHINA
BIOlympiad
Initiative

TEAM USA WINS #1 RANK

(continued from page 1)

- Edward Lee of Liberal Arts and Science Academy (LASA), Austin, Texas (#10)
- Alexander Tsao of Troy High School, Fullerton, California (#2)
- Catherine Wang of Lexington High School, Lexington, Massachusetts (#23)
- Thomas Xiong of Seven Lakes High School, Katy, Texas (#13)

Kathy Frame, Team USA Coach and Director of the USA Biology Olympiad at CEE, accompanied Team USA to the IBO, along with Charles Gleason, USABO'13 Gold Medalist and First in the World Individual Scorer at IBO'13.

Students (10,000) across the U.S. registered for the highly competitive USABO.

Twenty finalists were selected to compete at the USABO Finals held on the campus of Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia.

Finalists also participated in lectures, study sessions and laboratory exercises led by biology experts in fields of cellular & molecular biology, plant anatomy & physiology, animal anatomy & physiology, genetics & evolution, ecology, ethology, and biosystematics. CEE extends a special thank you to Matt Shank, President of Marymount University. ■

CEE IN INDIA

CEE's President, Joann DiGennaro (left) made a special address and Dr. Y.G. Parthasarathy, Chief Patron of the Research Science Institute – Chennai (RSI-C) and founder of PSBB Group of Schools contributed her Reflections at the Valedictory Function of RSI-C Summer Program 2017. ■



CEE alumni enjoying comradery at the NYC Harvard Club.

CEE & REGENERON HOST ALUMNI IN CAMBRIDGE AND NYC

CEE and Regeneron welcomed RSI and USABO alumni in Cambridge, MA, and NYC to meet up with old friends and classmates. CEE President Joann DiGennaro announced USABO's new home at the University of California at San Diego, USABO's Team USA earning the coveted #1 world ranking from the 28th IBO, the upcoming 35th Anniversary of CEE, and the success of the new Department of Defense Internship program. CEE Trustee Ross Grossman, SVP, Regeneron (ret.) and

Regeneron executives joined Regeneron Researcher Wanda Shariff-Rodriguez (in Cambridge) to discuss opportunities for STEM scholars. Lyndon Mitnaul (in NYC), Director, R&D Planning Strategy and Operations at Regeneron, spoke about the work and research culture of Regeneron. CEE's VP of Development Chris Sedlock discussed "The State of CEE and What Alumni Can Do to Help" sustain the world-renowned programs. ■

CEE IN BULGARIA



CEE's President, Joann DiGennaro (seventh from left), was a special guest of the 35th Anniversary Celebration of the International Foundation St. Cyril and St. Methodius in Sofia. A reception was held in her honor with Bulgarian alumni of the Research Science Institute. ■

WITH OUR APPRECIATION AND THANKS!

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The Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) will mark 35 years of excellence in 2018, culminated by a historic 35th-anniversary celebration—October 12-14, 2018—in Cambridge, MA.

Weekend events will include presentations, panels, and meetings on October 12th and 13th at the Broad Institute, a Gala dinner on October 13th at the Cambridge Marriott Hotel, and an alumni meeting on Sunday morning October 14th.

This milestone event will provide a great opportunity to reflect on accomplishments, renew acquaintances, and reinvigorate STEM knowledge and connections. ■