

82 RSI SCHOLARS AT MIT

CEE, in partnership with MIT, will hold the 36th Research Science Institute for 6 weeks this summer at MIT. A total of 82 students will attend from 34 US states and regions, along with scholars from **Bulgaria, Canada, China, India, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey.**

The Selection Committee, comprised of distinguished STEM professionals, met at CEE in mid-February 2019 to select students chosen for academic merit, demonstrated leadership, and scientific achievement. Selection was also based on standardized test scores, high school grades, essay submissions, recommendations, and demonstrated potential to become STEM leaders.

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REGENERON SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH AWARDEE



Rachel SeEVERS, a 2018 alumnus of CEE's Research Science Institute (RSI), received the 2019 Glenn T. Seaborg Award at the Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS) Awards Ceremony in Washington, DC in March. SeEVERS, a senior at Paul Laurence Dunbar High

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USABO THANKS BIO!



BIO hosted a luncheon to recognize the biology accomplishments of Team USA 2018. The four team members interacted with a panel of BIO science professionals. Later in the day, **Lucy Chen, Allen Huang, Alexander Tsao, and Jason Yang** met with Members of Congress on the Hill. The BIO presenters were:

- **Phyllis Arthur**, VP for Infectious Diseases and Diagnostics Policy
- **Crystal Kuntz**, VP of Healthcare Policy and Research
- **Sesquile Ramon**, Director, Science and Regulatory Affairs
- **David Thomas**, VP for Industry Research

IBO 2018 was held in Tehran, Iran. The CEE Board made the decision that the U.S. Team would not participate because of safety issues.

Thank you to **Jim Greenwood**, President and CEO of BIO, and his staff for honoring excellence in education. The opportunity was so gratifying to CEE and Team USA 2018.



2019 USA BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD (USABO) FINALS

The USA Biology Olympiad (USABO) Finals take place from June 22 through July 6 at the University of California San Diego (UC San Diego). UC San Diego staff members **Victoria Berdin**, Dean's Office and **Ashley Miller**, Division Safety Officer, have been instrumental in managing the USABO program on site at UC San Diego under the guidance of **Dr. Kit Pogliano**, Dean of Biological Sciences.



Credit: Erik Jepsen/UC San Diego Publications

Dr. Pogliano, a professor of molecular biology and a faculty member since 1996, was introduced last fall as the fourth dean of UC San Diego's Biological Sciences and the division's first female leader. Dr. Pogliano was very supportive in naming a home for USABO at UC San Diego, and CEE greatly appreciates her commitment to the program.

The goal of the rigorous USABO program is to encourage students to pursue knowledge and understanding above and beyond what is normally encountered in the biology classroom. Further, USABO fosters a collaborative and personal commitment to science in the biological research world.

CEE had over 10,000 students register for the USABO from 45 U.S. states and 6 International schools. USABO National

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82 RSI SCHOLARS AT MIT

(RSI continued from page 1)



Greg Gunn, RSI '86, Co-Founder, Lingo Ventures, will be the Keynote Speaker at the RSI Convocation Dinner. Greg holds a bachelor's degree in physics from the University of Chicago, an MBA and Master's in Computer Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and was a Rhodes Scholar. He was named one of Fast Company magazine's "100 Most Creative People in Business" in 2012. He serves as an expert-in-residence at Harvard University's Innovation Lab and is on the faculty of the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Dr. Amy Sillman, RSI '84, Director, and **River Grace, RSI '16**, Assistant Director, will lead RSI 2019. Professors at RSI include:

- **Dr. Steven Leeb**, Engineering Professor at MIT
- **Dr. Forrest Michael, RSI '90**, Chemistry Professor at University of Washington
- **Dr. Jason Nielsen, RSI '89**, Physics Professor at University of California, Santa Cruz
- **Mr. Lance Rhoades**, Humanities Professor at University of Washington
- **Dr. Rebekah Rogers, RSI '01**, Biology Professor at University of North Carolina, Charlotte
- **Dr. Christopher Skinner, RSI '88**, Math Professor at Princeton University

The Center's RSI continues to be nationally and internationally recognized with nations waiting for an opportunity to send scholars to this prestigious program.

REGENERON SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH 2019 AWARDEE

(Regeneron, continued from page 1)

School in Lexington, KY, was selected by her STS peers as the person who most embodies the qualities of **Dr. Seaborg**, a Nobel Laureate and former board chair of the Society for Science & the Public. Dr. Seaborg also served as a CEE Trustee. STS, a program of the Society since 1942, is the nation's oldest and most prestigious competition for high school seniors.

Seevers placed eighth in the nationwide competition, and received a \$60,000 award for her project about a Virtual Winglet, which works by ejecting high-speed air at the leading edge of the underside of a plane's wingtip to potentially improve the stability and efficiency of the aircraft.



Eshika Saxena, RSI '18, of Bellevue, WA—who placed 10th and received a \$40,000 award—and Seevers were among 23 alumni of CEE's RSI and USA Biology (USABO) programs that were awarded a combined \$216,000 in prizes as 2019 Regeneron STS Scholars.

2019 USA BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD (USABO) FINALS

(USABO continued from page 1)

Finalists will be led by **Kakoli Mitra**, Manager of the USABO, and **Kathy Frame**, USABO Advisor & Consultant. CEE has also reached out to its alumni community to lend its expertise and includes:

USABO Finals Guest Speakers:

- **Zack Gold, USABO '10**
- **David Yang, USABO 2005, RSI '04**

USABO Academic Advisor:

- **Scott Rifkin**, Associate Professor in Ecology, Behavior and Evolution at UC San Diego and **RSI '92 Alum**

USABO Teaching Assistants (TA's):

- **Grace Chen, USABO '14, '15, IBO '15 Gold Medalist**, Harvard Graduate
- **Bowen Jing, USABO '16, IBO '16 Gold Medalist, RSI '17**, student at Stanford University
- **Alexander Tsao, USABO '16, '17, '18, IBO '17 Gold Medalist, Team USA '18**, student at MIT
- **Jason Yang, USABO '18, Team USA '18**, student at MIT

(USABO continued from page 2)



Dr. Pam R. Taub, RSI '93, Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, Department of Medicine, at the University of California (UC), San Diego, will give the Keynote Address at the USABO 2019 closing ceremony on July 3. Dr. Taub is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology. She is board certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular disease, and nuclear cardiology. She has been selected by her peers as a top physician in the San Diego Magazine "Physicians of Exceptional Excellence" annual survey. Dr. Taub received her MD from Boston University School of Medicine. She completed her residency in internal medicine at the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle and her fellowship in cardiovascular medicine at UC San Diego.

For the first time ever, USABO scholars will be trained to use *Geneious Software* for the 30th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) which will be held in Szeged, Hungary from July 14 to 21, 2019. This software creates bioinformatics solutions that are integrated, visually appealing, and easy to use.

The 2019 USA Biology Olympiad National Finalists are as follows:

- **Richard Y. Chai**, West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South, Princeton Junction, New Jersey
- **Suhas P. Chundi**, Carmel High School, Carmel, Indiana
- **Joseph Philemon Dong**, Troy High School, Fullerton, California
- **Leon Fan**, Belmont High School, Belmont, Massachusetts
- **Kaivalya Hariharan**, Ridge High School, Basking Ridge, New Jersey
- **Charles Huang**, Lynbrook High School, San Jose, California
- **Kameel Khabaz**, Fairmont Preparatory Academy, Anaheim, California
- **Saleha Mir**, City Honors School at Fosdick-Masten Park, Buffalo, New York
- **Atharv Oak**, West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South, Princeton Junction, New Jersey
- **Nithin Parsan**, Clements High School, Sugar Land, Texas
- **Sagarika Samavedi**, Interlake High School, Bellevue, Washington
- **Henry Shen**, Oak Ridge High School, Oak Ridge, Tennessee
- **Kimberly Shen**, Mounds View High School, Arden Hills, Minnesota
- **Lakshay Sood**, Academy for Allied Health and Biomedical Sciences, Woodbridge, New Jersey
- **Christopher Wang**, Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, Acton, Massachusetts
- **Eric Wang**, Naperville North High School, Naperville, Illinois
- **John J. Yang**, Princeton High School, Princeton, New Jersey
- **Albert Zhang**, North Hollywood Senior High School, North Hollywood, California
- **Brian Joshua Zhang**, Carmel High School, Carmel, Indiana
- **Jason Zhang**, Troy High School, Troy, Michigan

The USABO program strives to promote communication, understanding, and improvement of biology education between high schools in the U.S. and other countries participating at the IBO.

CEE CELEBRATION LOS ANGELES STYLE



Alumni of the Center for Excellence in Education's (CEE) programs and teachers, parents, trustees and guests gathered on April 18, 2019 to 'Celebrate CEE' in Los Angeles. Hosted by former CEE Trustee **Cara Esposito** in her lovely home, guests enjoyed camaraderie, food, and networking with alumni of the Research Science Institute (RSI), the USA Biology Olympiad (USABO), and the Teacher Enrichment Program (TEP).



The Keynote Speaker was **Richard Edlund**, former CEE Trustee and four-time Academy Award winner (special effects in *Star Wars*, *Poltergeist*, *Ghostbusters*, etc.), shared his thoughts on AI's impact on the entertainment industry, and also reflected on the success of the *Star Wars* franchise. Former First Lady of California and former CEE Chair, **Gayle Wilson**, was also in attendance. CEE President **Joann DiGennaro** provided an update on the activities of the Center, recognized the outstanding accomplishments of CEE alumni, and applauded the impact of the Center's teacher program.

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Appreciation and thanks to the following Supporters from Nov. 10, 2018 to June 7, 2019

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In 1983, **Admiral H.G. Rickover** received the first gift to CEE of \$250 for a university lecture. Over the past 36 years, more than 4,300 donors—including alumni, friends, parents, corporations, foundations and organizations—have supported the Center’s mission to nurture high school and university scholars to careers of excellence and leadership in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and to encourage international collaboration between and among leaders in the global community. Today, CEE’s 2,800 alumni represent all 50 U.S. states and 56 different countries. **Joann DiGennaro**, the Center’s cofounder, continues to carry the organization to new heights and national and international recognition.

CEE’s world-renowned STEM programs are unique because they are offered cost-free to participants, thereby eliminating economic barriers to participation by most teachers and students. Cost-free programming is only possible because of the thousands of donors that have invested in the Center’s students and teachers. As a nationally-respected nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, CEE has

earned the top four-star rating by Charity Navigator, and GuideStar’s highest level of recognition—Platinum—for transparency.

Every gift to CEE has a measurable impact, and enables deserving scholars and teachers to further their STEM education through unique and impactful experiences.

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2019 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

The 55th class of U.S. Presidential Scholars includes four RSI alumni:

Alexander Cheng, RSI '18, Sandy, Utah, Hillcrest High School

William Ellsworth, RSI '18, Marietta, Georgia, George Walton Comprehensive School

Anushka Nair, RSI '18, Lake Oswego, Oregon, Lake Oswego High School

Alan Zhu, RSI '18, Rapid City, South Dakota, Stevens Senior High School

CEE BOARD RETREAT

It was announced at the CEE Board Meeting (March 22nd-23rd) that two former Trustees, who had taken a leave of absence, officially rejoined the Board. The Trustees proudly welcomed back **Susan Lee Ko, RSI '91** and **Steven Strong, Ph.D., RSI '84**.

At the meeting, CEE officially retained the services of **Seth Kahan**, Principal of Visionary Leadership, to facilitate and interface with each trustee about his/her ideas for the future of the Center and its programs. Seth will present his findings in a report at the Fall 2019 Board Meeting.

McKinsey & Company will subsequently conduct a strategic planning study. This in-kind service will be managed by **Asutosh Padhi**, Senior Partner and Global Leader, Advanced Industries Sector at McKinsey & Company, father of **Roshni Padhi RSI, '18**.

The CEE Board reiterated its position that CEE’s programs will remain cost free for all students and teachers to attend.

WHERE ARE CEE ALUMNI NOW?

- **Nancy Akerman, RSI '98** is a Climate and Environmental Policy Analyst for the EPA in Washington, DC.
- **Kent Churchill, M.S., RSI '84** and **John Dorfler, RSI '84** work at Fenrir LLC which was founded by CEE Trustee **Steven Strong, Ph.D., RSI '84**.
- **Jacinta "Jaci" Conrad, Ph.D., RSI '94** is Frank M. Tiller Associate Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of Houston.
- **Charles Du, MD, USABO '10, '11**, is a Resident at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.
- **Dan Haspel, MBA, RSI '98** is Managing Director at Golden Gate Capital in San Francisco, CA.
- **Josie Haspel, MBA, RSI '01** is a Senior Vice President, Corporate Strategy at Wells Fargo in San Francisco, CA.
- **Elizabeth Hong, RSI '97** is Clare Boothe Luce Assistant Professor of Neuroscience at CalTech in Pasadena, CA.
- **Ryan Jamiolkowski, MD, Ph.D., USABO '04** is on Neurosurgery Residency at Stanford University.
- **Vishal Nigam, M.D., RSI '89** is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at UC San Diego Medical Center.
- **Palak M. Patel RSI '06** is Emerging Markets Analyst at Fidelity Investments in Boston, MA.
- **Marnie Schroer, RSI '84** is Financial Advisor and CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management in Spokane, WA.
- **Rachna Trivedi Shroff, MD, RSI '95** is Chief, Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology at the University of Arizona Cancer Center, Chair of the Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) and Associate Professor at UA College of Medicine – Tucson.

CEE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CEE's Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) convenes and fosters an engaged, supportive community of parents and alumni and works to forge meaningful connections with new Research Science Institute (RSI) and USA Biology Olympiad (USABO) parents.

well as planning new ways to stay in touch and involve parents from previous years. Now in its 36th year, RSI and USABO families are linked to the Center community throughout their lives.



Dr. Douglas Humberger, CEE Trustee and President of DE Humberger Consulting, has served as chair of the Committee since its inauguration in 2015. RAC members are gearing up to welcome 2019 RSI and USABO parents into the CEE family as

The CEE Annual Congressional Luncheon will be rescheduled in Fall 2019 due to a scheduling conflict with the room. **Ben Silberman, RSI '98** will be presented the **Joseph I. Lieberman Award for Outstanding Achievement** by the retired Senator. The award acknowledges Silberman's significant business accomplishments and recognizes Lieberman's longtime support as a CEE Trustee.

TEACHER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

CEE's Teacher Enrichment Program (TEP) is hosting a Teacher Conference, "Engaging Students in STEM: Hands-On Learning and Real World Applications" on June 24, 2019 at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA for high school STEM teachers. This workshop will feature a keynote by **Dr. Steven Fein, MD, RSI '89**, Oncologist, Baptist Health South Florida. Activity tables will help teachers learn more about local STEM outreach opportunities and resources and how to connect with STEM representatives from industry and academia.



their projects as part of their end of year Academic Decathlon.

The TEP team, consisting of **Natasha Schuh-Nuhfer, Ph.D.** and **Kim Edwards**, worked with **Helen Wu**, Founder, and her staff at Virginia International Academy (VIA) to develop a science poster session for 8th grade students. During the month of May, students were challenged to complete a Biology project and present their findings through a judged poster session. Students completed their projects in pairs and presented

The TEP team judged the posters which explored topics such as: ability to differentiate between natural and synthetic scents, whether gamers had faster reaction times than non-gamers and if the dominant hand was more sensitive to cold than the non-dominant hand. In addition to this poster session, CEE works with graduates of VIA through the Consultancy & Advisory Program of CEE.

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Steven P. Strong, Ph.D.
Founder and Principal, Fenrir LLC

Feng Zhang, Ph.D.
Core Member, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard

Mr. Robert Zou
Founder, Chairman and CEO, Arrail Group Ltd.

Excellence

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ABOUT CEE

The Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) nurtures high school and university scholars to careers of excellence and leadership in STEM and encourages collaborations between and among leaders in the global community. Founded in 1983 by the late Admiral H.G. Rickover and Joann DiGennaro, President of the Center, the organization's programs help keep the U.S. competitive in STEM and encourage international collaboration.

As a private, non-profit organization, CEE is not subject to federal and state mandates or political pressures. All CEE programs are open to students and teachers, at no cost to them, regardless of race, color, creed or economic background; the only criterion is academic excellence.

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