# Spring 2021

centerline

# **RSI ALUMNI TAKE TOP PRIZES IN REGENERON SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH**

Two Research Science Institute (RSI) alumni were among the top 10 winners in the Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS) competition for high school seniors. This is an outstanding accomplishment for Research Science Institute alumni and CEE.



Yunseo Choi (RSI '20), Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, NH, garnered first place and the \$250,000 scholarship for her

project where she played theoretical "match maker" for an infinite number of things or people. She studied matching algorithms that work for a finite number of couples and determined which important properties would still work for an infinite number of pairs. Matching theory has numerous real-life applications, including matching organ donors to recipients, assigning medical school applicants to rotations, and pairing potential couples in dating apps.

Yunseo's RSI mentor **Scott Kominers**, PhD (RSI '04), Associate Professor of Business Administration in the Entrepreneurial Management Unit at Harvard Business School, and a Faculty Affiliate, Harvard Department of Economics, noted, "Yunseo is one of the most extraordinary students I have ever come across, even in my decade-and-a-half of

involvement at RSI. Her paper makes foundational contributions that help us better understand which results in matching theory are the most robust and canonical. The work itself is easily graduate level. And I cannot emphasize enough how spectacularly quickly Yunseo managed to immerse herself in the field—by the end of the first week of the project, she was already formulating all the core research questions and approaches entirely on her own! I'm thrilled for her STS win—it's so well deserved, Q.E.D."

**Vivian Yee** (RSI '20) International Academy, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, won ninth place and received a



\$50,000 award for research on inequalities in COVID-19 incidence and outcomes in the counties of New York City. By modelling rates of transmission, recovery and

death alongside housing, education, and employment status, she found higher rates of transmission and death in more socially vulnerable communities. Her findings, which are included in a Consensus Memorandum accepted by the Congressional Coronavirus Task Force, can help guide future policies and initiatives for public health.

(Continued on Page 2)

# CEE ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL LUNCHEON

CEE's Annual Congressional Luncheon was held as a virtual event on April 8. Moderated by CEE Trustee **Susan Lee Ko** (RSI '91), the luncheon brought together STEM leaders in the public and private sectors, friends of CEE, and alumni of the Center's programs.

During the event **Senator Joseph Lieberman** presented the 2021 Senator Joseph I. Lieberman Awards for Outstanding Achievement in STEM to:



Mark Kantrowitz (RSI '84) is President of Cerebly, Inc. He previously served as Publisher and Vice President of Research, Saving for College.



Lauren K. Williams, PhD (RSI '94) is Dwight Parker Robinson Professor of Mathematics at Harvard and Sally Starling Seaver Professor at the Radcliffe Institute.

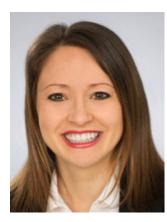
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# **REGENERON STS (CONTINUED)**

Vivian's RSI mentor, **Dr. Asad Moten**, MD (USABO '07), Department of Defense, noted, "This work provides a novel, comprehensive framework for national emergency preparedness and response. To that end, it has immensely important implications and applications for public health as well as public policy."

The students were selected from 1,760 highly qualified entrants, all of whom completed an original research project and an extensive application process. Twentyone RSI alumni and a USA Biolympiad alumnus were among the top 300 scholars. Six RSI alumni were among the top 40 finalists. Regeneron awarded \$3.1 million in total prizes through the Regeneron Science Talent Search 2021, including \$2,000 to each of the top scholars and their schools.

# JOSIE HASPEL JOINS CEE'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES



CEE is proud to announce the addition of **Josie (Weeks) Haspel** (RSI '01) to its Board of Trustees. She is Customer Experience Leader and Senior Vice President at Wells Fargo in San Francisco, California. She holds an A.B. in Physics from Harvard and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Josie has been active with the Center as an Alumni Campaign Class Captain. Josie explained that volunteering with the Center is important to her because, "CEE's Research Science Institute changed my life. The program exposed me to incredibly challenging science content in a supportive and empowering environment, building my confidence for college. I made lifelong friendships as a participant and as a counselor in the program. I hope to do whatever I can to help the next generation of students benefit from the Center's exceptional programs." Josie is married to **Dan Haspel**, RSI '98. They are parents of two children.

#### **CEE WELCOMES NEW STAFF**



Julia Ham

**Development Analyst** 







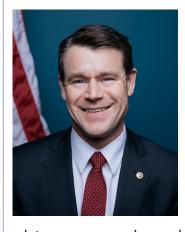
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# <u>Excellence</u>

CEE welcomes new staff members to help further its mission of nurturing careers of excellence and leadership in STEM for academically talented high school and college students.

### **NEW HONORARY CEE TRUSTEE**



CEE is pleased to announce that **U.S. Senator Todd Young** of Indiana is now an Honorary CEE Trustee. After graduating from high school, Todd enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He graduated with honors from the U.S. Naval Academy and accepted a commission in the U.S. Marine Corps. After training as a rifle

platoon commander and service as an intelligence officer, Todd put himself through night school at the University of Chicago, where he earned his MBA with a concentration in economics. After serving a decade in the military, he earned an MA from the School of Advanced Study in London. Senator Young earned his J.D. from the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law. He currently serves on the U.S. Senate Committees on Finance; Foreign Relations; Commerce, Science & Transportation; and Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

# **RSI (CONTINUED)**



The 2021 Research Science Institute (RSI) will take place virtually June 27 to August 7, 2021, in collaboration with Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The RSI Student Selection Committee, comprised of distinguished STEM professionals, met in March to select scholars based on academic merit, demonstrated leadership, and scientific achievement.



**Dr. Jamie L. Wells**, MD, FAAP (RSI '91) will serve as Director of RSI. Under her direction, RSI will continue to bring together top U.S. and international high school students for the intensive, six-week summer program that provides students with the opportunity to conduct original, cutting-edge research. Dr. Wells is deeply committed

to educating, mentoring and career advising the next generation.

As an adjunct professor at Drexel University's School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems, she has helped in spearheading the nation's first degree program in pediatric engineering. Dr. Wells is an award-winning Board-certified physician with many years of experience caring for patients. She is Founder & Chair of the Yale Alumni Health Network as well as a member of The Leadership Council of The Wistar Institute, the nation's first independent biomedical research facility. She has been interviewed on major media outlets as a medical expert.

To date, nearly 3,000 scholars, representing all U.S. states and more than 55 nations, have attended the RSI. The program remains cost-free to all students competitively selected to attend.

# **USA BIOLYMPIAD**

# USA BIOlympiad 2021

In February thousands of students logged in to the first ever online USABO exam. Through a partnership with Art of Problem Solving (AoPS), the 2021 USABO Open Exam went virtual. The USABO team provided guidelines and held a webinar covering virtual proctoring as an additional resource for teachers. Students from across the nation took the exam. Open Exam scores were released in March, and 408 students made the semifinalists' cut off. Semifinals were held virtually on April 16. "I'm amazed at the passion and resilience of these students. This is an incredible journey these students get to take, and the passion these students have for the biological science and USABO is incredible," said Michelle King, PhD, program Manager of the USA Biolympiad. "We are thankful to each and every teacher who took the time to proctor these students." The 2021 USA Biolympiad (USABO) will be held virtually May 22-June 5.

### TEACHER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



# Teacher Enrichment Program

CEE's Teacher Enrichment Program (TEP) continues to connect rural and urban middle and high school teachers with leading experts from industry and academia to explore cutting-edge research with real world connections for students' classroom learning through virtual Bite of Science programs. TEP continues to serve teachers in California, Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia through Bite of Science events. TEP has provided cost-free resources to teachers in 12 states to access and use in the classroom. To date, nearly 4,000 teachers from over 1,600 schools have participated. The program has reached more than 600,000 underserved urban and rural students.

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#### **CEE CONGRESSIONAL LUNCHEON (CONTINUED)**

Mark Kantrowitz and Lauren K. Williams, PhD are exemplary models of students supported by the Center's programs. The award acknowledges significant STEM and business accomplishments and recognizes Senator Lieberman's longtime support as a CEE Trustee. Mark is a nationally recognized expert on student financial aid, scholarships, college savings plans and student loans. His mission is to deliver practical information, advice and tools to students and their families for them to make informed decisions about planning and paying for college. He earned Bachelor of Science degrees in mathematics and philosophy from MIT and a Master of Science degree in computer science from Carnegie Mellon University. Lauren is known for her work on cluster algebras and tropical geometry. She earned an A.B. in mathematics from Harvard University and a PhD at MIT.



CEE Honorary Trustee **U.S. Senator Jacky Rosen** (NV) spoke about the importance of science and technology in all educational training and for global leadership. Senator Rosen thanked CEE's supporters "for investing in our future generation of scientists, engineers, coders, and leaders."



CEE Honorary Trustee **U.S. Representative Neal Dunn** (FL) said the space race ignited his lifelong interest in STEM. "CEE has done a tremendous job in amplifying the nation's strong need for STEM. STEM teaches future generations how to solve problems...As a doctor, STEM holds a special place in my heart."

Virginia Delegate Mark Keam (35th District) presented CEE with a commendation issued jointly by Virginia's State Senate and House of Delegates. The commendation recognizes CEE's 38 years of providing STEM opportunities to outstanding high school scholars and teachers.

**Yunseo Choi** (RSI '20), who was awarded first place in the 2021 Regeneron STS competition, spoke about her experience attending CEE's RSI program. **Bryce Hwang** (USABO '12, '13), who recently appeared as a contestant on *Jeopardy!*, also spoke about his USABO experience and being on the show.

A recording of the luncheon is on <u>CEE's YouTube</u> channel.

# **UPCOMING WEBINAR**

#### **CEE ALUMNI ACCOLADES**



Our future is incredibly bright because of the advances made in the world of genomics. CEE, in partnership with Illumina Corporate Foundation, is celebrating World DNA Day on Sunday, April 25, 2021 with, "Unraveling DNA: The World of Genomics," a 90-minute webinar on Zoom from 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET featuring a panel of experts. Join us as we are guided through the history and evolution of sequencing technology. Then learn from our esteemed panel how this technology is being used to unravel the mysteries of life. Panelists include:

- Dr. Omar Abudayyeh, PhD, McGovern Institute Fellow, MIT
- Dr. Alex Aravanis, MD, PhD, Senior Vice President, Illumina
- Dr. Jonathan Gootenberg, PhD (USABO '08, '09), McGovern Institute Fellow, MIT
- Dr. Mimi Shirasu-Hiza, PhD (RSI '88), Associate Professor of Genetics and Development Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons
- Dr. Ashley Van Zeeland, PhD, MBA
  Vice President Development, Product Integration and Customer Collaboration, Illumina

RSVP at <u>www.cee.org/webinars</u>. A recording of the webinar will be posted on CEE's YouTube channel after the event.



Biss, PhD (RSI Daniel K. '94) is a mathematician and mayor of Evanston, Illinois. He previously served as a member of both the Illinois House of Representatives and Illinois Senate. Prior to pursuing a political career, Biss was an Assistant Professor **Mathematics** of at the University of Chicago. He received an A.B. from Harvard University and a PhD at MIT,

both in mathematics. He won the 1999 Morgan Prize for outstanding research as an undergraduate and was a Clay Research Fellow from 2002 to 2007.



**Michael Ginsberg**, J.D. (RSI '92) is Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, CACI International Inc. He is the author of *Vietnam Envy and the Emerging Iraq Syndrome*. The book is available for purchase through Amazon. He previously served as Senior Associate General Counsel, Office of the Director of National

Intelligence; Counsel, Arnold & Porter LLP; and as a Judicial Law Clerk for U.S. Judge Lee H. Rosenthal. He holds an S.B. in mechanical engineering from Harvard, an M.S. degree in aerospace engineering from Stanford, and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

### **CEE ALUMNI REUNIONS**

CEE recently organized four Zoom reunions for the classes of 1987, 1988, 1991, and 1997 (with more classes to follow in the coming months). The Zooms brought together Rickoids from throughout the US and the nations of Israel, Hungary, Greece, Canada, England, India, Singapore, Germany, and France. Alums are deeply engaged in both STEM and family life, though there is a great diversity of lifestyle and career choices. Many said they had never joined any kind of reunions before so their participation was particularly exciting.

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### **IN MEMORIAM**



CEE mourns the passing of CEE Trustee **Nicholas S. Gouletas**, of Chicago, Illinois, who passed away in January at age 82. Mr. Gouletas was a renowned entrepreneur and Founder and Chairman of American Invsco. He served on CEE's Board of Trustees from 1994 and was a tireless advocate for RSI and USABO alumni. The Gouletas family arrived from Greece to Chicago as poor immigrants and

never looked back. Mr. Gouletas built a successful real estate practice and became one of our nation's most respected real estate investors. Mr. Gouletas was an extraordinary supporter of CEE and STEM education. He was an exceptional combination of business savvy and philanthropic generosity.

# ABOUT CEE

The Center for Excellence in Education 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. CEE sponsors the Research Science Institute, the USA Biolympiad, and the Teacher Enrichment Program. 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 with scientific and technological leaders in the global community.

CEE's 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. Follow CEE on social media:

