

Summer 2020

# centerline



CEE welcomed the 84 top achieving U.S. high school and international scholars to the 37th annual Research Science Institute (RSI), jointly sponsored with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). RSI is an intensive, six-week summer program that gives students the opportunity to conduct original, cutting-edge science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) research. The program was presented in virtual format.

**Dr. Amy Sillman**, an RSI '84 alum, led the Institute this summer. RSI scholars learned about the careers, achievements and challenges of STEM leaders through presentations and dialogue in RSI's Distinguished Guest Lecture Series. Guest lecturers included: **Wolfgang Ketterle**, PhD, Nobel Laureate, Physics, MIT, **Tom Leighton**, PhD, Co-Founder and CEO, Akamai Technologies, and **Jeremy Wolfe**, PhD, Department of Neurology, Harvard University Medical School.



**Dr. Noreen Hynes**, M.D., M.P.H., Director, Geographic Medicine Center, Division of Infectious Diseases and Associate

Professor of Medicine at Johns

Hopkins University School of Medicine, and a CEE Trustee, gave the RSI Closing Ceremony keynote.

The top 5 award winners for oral and top 5 for written presentations received \$1,000 scholarship awards presented by **Dr. Ross Grossman**, retired SVP, Human Resources, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc., on behalf of Regeneron. Dr. Grossman is a CEE Trustee. The top 5 written presentations awardees were: **Kenneth Choi**, Ridgefield Connecticut; **Yunseo Choi**, Seoul, South Korea; **Vivian Yee**, Beverly Hills, Michigan; **Jay Iyer**, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and **Victor Kolev**, Sofia, Bulgaria. The top 5 oral presentations awardees were: **Blanca Gilabert Lopez**, Tortosa, Spain; **Melanie Quan**, Alamo, California; **Oreoluwa Alao**, Lincroft, New Jersey; **Alexandre Benoit**, Bishop, Georgia; and **Addison Liu**, Westchester, PA.



**Eldar Urkumbayev** of Kazakhstan was chosen by his RSI peers for the top honor—Rickoid of the Year. The award recognizes academic acumen, leadership and personal demeanor, and is named for the late **Admiral H.G. Rickover**, father of the nuclear Navy and a founder of CEE.

## Excellence

Center for Excellence in Education

## USA BIOlympiad 2020

CEE announced the names of the high school biology scholars who earned medals at the 18th Annual [USA Biolymriad](#) (USABO) National Finals. Nearly 10,000 students from 500 schools, 43 states, and 11 International Schools registered in the nationwide high school competition.

The 20 National Finalists were selected following completion of an online 90-minute exam. For the first time, a team of 60 USABO alumni assisted with the proctoring of the exam.



2020 Team USA

USABO Gold Medalists are: **Judson Lam**, Naperville Central High School, Naperville, Illinois; **Derrick Liang**, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Alexandria, Virginia; **Nithin Parsan**, Clements (Continued on Page 3)

### RSI ALUM RECEIVES GLENN T. SEABORG AWARD

For the second year in a row, an RSI alum is the recipient of the esteemed Seaborg Prize at the Regeneron Science Talent Search. **Helena Jiang** (RSI '19) from Florida received the award. CEE is also proud that **Rupert Li** (RSI '19) from Oregon was awarded fourth place in the competition.

## CEE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



There is a saying; "If a door is closed, a window will be opened." Indeed, COVID-19 and the resulting economic uncertainty made an opportunity for CEE to evaluate its efficiency and programs. The buck stopped with CEE to depend on itself for sustainability.

The situation made for unpleasant budget cuts with the stipulation that STEM programs would not be adversely affected. When MIT canceled all summer programs on campus, and the USABO could not logistically be sponsored, the Center with its Board of Trustees and alumni said, "Why not go virtual? We can do it!"

The results were spectacular. USABO's theoretical and practical Finals were online, and Team USA was named to compete in a Global Challenge sponsored by Japan. The Research Science Institute met the challenge of providing science research with a majority of the math and science projects mentored by RSI alumni. Regeneron continued to award 1K checks to the top 5 written projects and top 5 oral presentations as chosen by a panel of RSI alumni in respective fields. The online RSI and USABO also featured alumni as distinguished lecturers for the students. Both programs built in special activities to help bond students into the Rickoid community.

The RSI/USABO Alumni campaign was completed in May and surpassed its \$450,000 goal with a \$511,000 total, with matching funds still expected, and a recent \$1 million contribution from an RSI alumnus in addition to the total!

The Teacher Enrichment Program for rural and urban teachers was restructured for virtual presentations in 14 separate sessions with private/public partnerships and unique STEM opportunities for middle and high school teachers to take back to their classrooms. Exciting videos of alumni STEM presentations are in preparation for teachers online. The Center also is planning

a new component in TEP to help teachers to better present material on line and to better their access to technology opportunities.

June and July were marked with two extraordinary Zoom sessions featuring illustrious RSI alumni discussing their research about COVID-19 and medical break-throughs in respective specialties.

COVID-19 will not constrain the Center in its work to nurture high ability students to careers of excellence and leadership in science & technology and for STEM teachers to realize their teaching potential.

To all of you who stand with CEE, whether with in-kind support, participation in CEE's programs or with financial support, the Center's educational opportunities will remain free of cost to participants, only because of you!

Warm Regards and Thanks,

President, CEE

## CONGRESSIONAL LUNCHEON



CEE hosted its Annual Congressional Luncheon as a virtual event in May. Participants included luminaries from business, education, government, and CEE program alumni. Honorary Trustees **U.S. Senator Jacky Rosen** (NV) and **U.S. Representatives Neal Dunn** (FL) and **Scott Peters** (CA) gave remarks by

video. Alumni speakers included **Shamit Kachru**, PhD (RSI '86), Professor of Physics and Director, Stanford Institute for Theoretical Physics; **Susan Lee Ko** (RSI '91), a CEE Trustee and consultant; **Rachel SeEVERS** (RSI '18), a student at Harvard University, a 2019 Davidson Fellow and 2019 **Glenn T. Seaborg** Awardee; and **Christopher Wang** (USABO '19 and IBO '19 Gold Medalist), a student at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri. CEE's annual luncheon celebrated over 36 years of success with its impactful STEM education programs. A recording of the program is available on [YouTube](#).

## USA BIOLYMPIAD (CONTINUED)

High School, Sugar Land, Texas; and **Albert Zhang**, North Hollywood Senior High School, North Hollywood, California.

USABO Silver Medalists are: **Arthur Hu**, Lexington High School, Lexington, Massachusetts; **Rachit Mukkamala**, Seven Lakes High School, Katy, Texas; **Yajat Yadav**, Del Norte High School, San Diego, California; and **Michael Zhao**, Lynbrook High School, San Jose, California. USABO Bronze Medalists are: **Harry Chen**, Ladue Horton Watkins High School, St. Louis, Missouri; **Sean Fei**, Lexington High School, Lexington, Massachusetts; **Richard Zhu**, Peddie School, Hightstown, New Jersey; and **Lucy Zou**, East Brunswick High School, East Brunswick, New Jersey.

The gold medalists will participate as Team USA in the [IBO Challenge 2020](#) (a substitute for the 31st IBO Nagasaki, Japan). The regular IBO for 2020 in Nagasaki/Japan was cancelled due to COVID-19.



**Ryan Jamiolkowski, MD, PhD**, (USABO '04 & RSI '04), participated as the Keynote Speaker at the closing USABO medal ceremony. He is a Neurosurgery Resident at Stanford University. CEE President **Joann DiGennaro** provided closing remarks.

During the ten days of the virtual National Finals, students participated in intensive theoretical and practical tutorials. They studied with leading U.S. biologists, experts in the fields of cellular & molecular biology, plant anatomy & physiology, animal anatomy & physiology, genetics & evolution, ecology, ethology, and biosystematics. The young scholars were mentored by **Michelle King**, PhD, Manager, USABO and **Kathy Frame**, USABO Advisor & Consultant.

USABO is pleased to partner with Art of Problem Solving, an education services company, to conduct virtual semi-finals going forward. The partnership will modernize the process by eliminating paper forms.

## TEACHER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



## Teacher Enrichment Program

High quality educational resources for remote education have been made easily accessible to STEM educators during this unprecedented time of COVID-19 to help teachers' transition to virtual classrooms. Additionally, TEP's [Lab Bench](#) website has been reorganized to make finding presentations and supporting content easier and to include a new section, "Webinars & Digital Learning," to support educators and administrators as they continue to develop their virtual or hybrid classrooms.

This fall, TEP will work to engage STEM teachers in California, Florida, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia through virtual Bite of Science events. The virtual Bite of Science will continue to connect with leading experts from industry and academia to explore cutting-edge research and explore the real world connections to students' classroom learning. With the high need for remote teaching support and professional development, TEP is developing additional resources and opportunities to help STEM educators implement more efficient and engaging virtual classrooms.

## CEE DOD INTERNSHIPS

CEE's RSI and USABO alumni completed 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 U.S. Air Force Academy. CEE received applications from RSI and USABO program alumni who attend top-tier colleges and universities. Fourteen 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**, former CEE Trustee.

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Your contribution to CEE is greatly appreciated! Times like these underscore the vital importance of CEE's mission. The world is reminded every day of the importance to invest in science and technology for our lives, health, and survival. Your gift can kindly be made online at [www.cee.org/donate](http://www.cee.org/donate), by phone (703) 448-9062, or mail to: The Center for Excellence in Education, 8201 Greensboro Drive, Suite 215, McLean, VA 22102. CEE is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your contribution is tax deductible.

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## CEE WEBINARS RECAP

CEE hosted a 90-minute virtual panel discussion on July 22 entitled “Newest Developments in Medical-related Fields”. The distinguished panelists are recognized and accomplished specialists in medicine and alumni of the prestigious Research Science Institute, sponsored collaboratively with the MIT.



The panel was moderated by **Soham Roy, MD, FACS, FAAP (RSI '86)**, Professor and Vice Chairman, Department of Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, Chief of Pediatric Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, Director of Quality and Safety, Director of Undergraduate Medical Education, and Assistant Dean, Admissions and Student Affairs, University of Texas Medical School at Houston Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital.

Dr. Roy introduced the distinguished panelists: **Anthony J. Lombardo, MD, PhD (RSI '84)** a Board certified ophthalmologist, Eye Surgeons of Indiana;

**Frederick Y. Chen (RSI '86)**, MD, PhD, Chief, Division of Cardiac Surgery, Tufts Medical Center and Professor of Surgery at Tufts University School of Medicine (Dr. Chen also serves on CEE's Board of Trustees.); **Aimee Crago, MD, PhD (RSI '90)** Associate Attending Surgeon, Memorial Hospital, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Associate Professor, Weill Cornell Medical College, and Special Contributing Faculty, Gerstner Sloan Kettering Graduate School; and **Jason Koh, MD, MBA (RSI '85)**, Mark R. Neaman Family Chair of Orthopedic Surgery, NorthShore University HealthSystem; Director, NorthShore Orthopaedic & Spine Institute; Clinical Professor, University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine; and Adjunct Professor, Northwestern University McCormick School of Engineering. A recording of the webinar is on [YouTube](#).



**Aaron Kesselheim, M.D., J.D., M.P.H. (RSI '91)** Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School moderated “Hacking Coronavirus,” a virtual

panel discussion on May 14. The panel included distinguished alumni of CEE's Research Science Institute: **Lauren Ancel Meyers (RSI '90)**, PhD Professor of Integrative Biology The University of Texas at Austin; **Ben Silbermann (RSI '98)** Co-Founder and CEO of Pinterest; **Patrick Tan, M.D., PhD (RSI '86)**, Principal Investigator, Cancer Science Institute of Singapore, NUS and Professor, Cancer and Stem Cell Biology, Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School Singapore; and **Feng Zhang, PhD (RSI '99)** Investigator, MIT McGovern Institute and pioneer of the revolutionary CRISPR gene-editing technology. A recording of the webinar is on [YouTube](#).

## ALUMNI CAMPAIGN

Thanks to tremendous support from alumni donors, the Alumni Campaign, which concluded May 31, raised over \$511K to help ensure CEE's programs are sustained in the future, exceeding the campaign goal of \$450K by 13%. CEE thanks the Alumni Annual Fund Steering Committee chaired by **Brien Wheeler (RSI '85)**; **Wes Beebee (RSI '95)**, **Pam Bee-Lindgren (RSI '85)**, **Nathan Bronson (RSI '91)**, **Dana Caulder (RSI**

**'89)**, **William Ellsworth (USABO '17/RSI '18)**, **Asad Moten (USABO '07)**, **Brant Richards (RSI '92)**, **Rich Simon (RSI '86)**, and **Kejia Sun (RSI '00)**, served as leaders on the committee.

This campaign brought a number of firsts: It was the first to be led by an Alumni Steering Committee, the first Pi Day social media campaign, participation in the first Giving Tuesday Now, the first Text2Give, the first with crowd funding ([Buy Me A Coffee](#)), and the first to be supported with virtual reunions. Alumni Leadership Challenge gifts were also used over the course of the campaign to encourage recurring donations, first-time gifts, participation by younger alumni, and increases in giving from previous donors.

Dana Caulder noted, “It was incredibly rewarding to work with the Center and other alumni on the 2019-2020 Alumni Campaign. When we started working together, little did we know that 2020 would turn out to be such a challenging and memorable year. I am deeply grateful to each and every one of our alumni that participated and enabled us not only meet, but exceed our fundraising goals to help ensure CEE's programs are sustained in the future.”

## WHERE ARE CEE ALUMNI NOW?

The following students attended both RSI and USABO. They are:

**Kelley Harris**, PhD (USABO '03, '04, RSI '04), a Sloan Fellow and Assistant Professor of Genome Sciences at the University of Washington

**Corinne Pender** (USABO '03, '04, '05, RSI '04), PhD biology student, MIT

**ZeNan Chang**, MD, PhD (USABO '04, RSI '05), Resident Physician, Internal Medicine at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis, MO

**Ryan Jamiolkowski**, MD, PhD (USABO '04, RSI '04), Neurosurgeon Resident at Stanford University

**Zachary Frankel**, PhD (RSI '06, USABO '07), Partner at 1/0 Capital LLC and Special Partner at FundRx Inc., both in New York

**Annie Ouyang**, PhD (RSI '06, USABO '07), Postdoctoral Fellow, Collaborative for STEM Education and Outreach at Vanderbilt

**Yingyu Gao** (USABO '07, RSI '07), medical student, General Medicine at The Ohio State College of Medicine, Columbus, OH

**Jeffrey Wang** (USABO '09, '11, RSI '10), medical student, MD/PhD Biophysics at Stanford

**Debra Van Egeren** (USABO '10, RSI '11), PhD Candidate, Systems Biology, at Harvard

**Yuqing Zhang** (USABO '10, '12, RSI '11) Quantitative Researcher at Citadel Securities

**Eric Li** (USABO '13, RSI '13), medical student, at The University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

**Bowen Jing** (USABO '16, RSI '17), undergraduate in Computer Science, Stanford University

**William Ellsworth** (USABO '17, RSI '18), undergraduate in Computer Science & IT, Stanford University

Donate today to help continue CEE's vital STEM education programs. Your donation enables RSI and USABO to remain free of cost to future young scholars.

Your gift can kindly be made online at [www.cee.org/donate](http://www.cee.org/donate), by phone (703) 448-9062, or mail to: The Center for Excellence in Education, 8201 Greensboro Drive, Suite 215, McLean, VA 22102. CEE is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your contribution is tax deductible.

## ALUMNI REUNIONS



### RSI Class of '85 Reunion

RSI '85 held a virtual reunion on Sunday, June 14th. **Mark Saul**, director of RSI '85, attended the event. Alums did a lot of catching up: kids, current jobs (medicine to history to programming), current locations (Seattle to Atlanta and Massachusetts to California), and reminiscing about the memorable speakers, including **Grace Hopper**, **Bobby Inman**, **Glenn Seaborg**, and **Diane Sawyer**. They spoke of rumors of mischief during time at the Xerox Conference Center (but there were no confirmations on the record!). They talked of life and its richness and nonlinearity as some moved in and out of STEM. 70-80% of the people on the call are currently in a STEM field. Many had significant outside interests, from film production to cooking and food photography to music. Four alumni are currently working at least tangentially on COVID-19. They also touched on the current conversations around racism in America, from redlining in neighborhoods to disciplinary actions in schools. Special thanks to **Pam Bee-Lindgren** (RSI '85) for hosting.

Alumni of CEE's RSI class of 1995 celebrated the 25th anniversary of their summer together by meeting virtually on April 25. The group was grateful to catch up and relive memories from RSI 1995, including the Fourth of July party and trip to the mountains. A review of their 1995 fantastic superlatives list provided a good laugh for all. Special thanks to RSI host **Rachna Shroff** for her volunteer leadership. All agreed their RSI summer was one of the most memorable and formative summers of their childhood. Alumni shared their successes as professors, start-up entrepreneurs, IT and marketing professionals, lawyers, finance leaders, doctors, and more. The group agreed to continue these "meet ups" periodically to stay apprised of each other's movements and lives.

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# Excellence

Center for Excellence in Education  
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Tom Flavell, *Communications Manager*

## CEE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE



CEE's Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) fosters an engaged, supportive community of parents and alumni to forge meaningful connections with new RSI and USABO parents and helps assure the Center's mission. **Dr. Douglas Himberger**, CEE Trustee, serves as chair of the Committee. RAC members welcome new RSI and USABO parents into the CEE family and plan new ways to involve parents

in ongoing CEE activities. RAC has recently strengthened and expanded activities to reach all alumni parents to assist in several areas, such as conducting welcome phone calls and emailing to new RSI and USABO parents, acting as a conduit to schools to ensure RSI and USABO program information is shared with students, alerting CEE of possible funding or in-kind gifts, and continuing outreach. The response has been terrific.

## 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. 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. More information is at [www.cee.org](http://www.cee.org).

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