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CEE's e-Newsletter: Stay informed about the latest news and events.



Research Science Institute

The Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) is excited to announce that five of CEE's Research Science Institute (RSI) 2022 alumni are among the top 40 finalists in the 2023 Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS) science and math competition for high school seniors. The RSI alumni named as finalists are: **Angela Chen**, North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, Durham, NC; **Madeleine de Belloy**, Lycée Français de San Francisco, CA; **Michelle Hua**, Cranbrook Kingswood School, Bloomfield Hills, MI; **Ellen Xu**, Del Norte High School, San Diego, CA; and **Sally Zhu**, The Harker School, San Jose, CA. A total of 30 of CEE's RSI alumni and two USA Biolympiad alumni were among the semi-finalists. Find a list of CEE's 2023 STS honorees by state and their research projects [here](#).

These students are building upon their extraordinary RSI experience, which included original, innovative research at RSI, which is collaboratively sponsored with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). RSI is widely recognized as the most prestigious international summer research program in the world for high school students. To date, more than 3,000 high school students representing every U.S. state and 61 nations have experienced RSI. CEE alumni enjoy networking and enrichment activities throughout their collegiate and professional careers. CEE's RSI '23 will be in session from June 25 to August 5, 2023, on the campus of MIT. For more information about RSI, visit <https://www.cee.org/programs/research-science-institute>.

A blue rectangular banner with white text and images. At the top left is the "Excellence Center for Excellence in Education" logo. In the center is a photograph of Sílvia Casacuberta Puig, a young woman with dark hair, wearing a pink shirt, standing with her arms crossed in front of a city skyline. To the right of the photo is the RSI logo. Below the photo, the text reads "2023 Rhodes Scholar" in large white font, followed by "Sílvia Casacuberta Puig" and "RSI '17" in smaller white font.

Rhodes Scholar

Congratulations to **Sílvia Casacuberta Puig**, a 2017 alum of CEE's RSI program, who has been selected as an international Rhodes Scholar.

Originally from Barcelona, Spain, Sílvia is a senior at Harvard studying a joint concentration in Mathematics and Computer Science with a secondary focus in Philosophy with a concurrent masters in Computer Science. She recently was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She has conducted research at MIT, Imperial College London, ETH Zurich, IBM Research, and Harvard and was named John Harvard Scholar. Sílvia was co-president of Gender Inclusivity in Mathematics, co-academic director of Women in Computer Science, and president of Circle of Women. She plays the violin in the Harvard Baroque Orchestra, Mozart Society Orchestra, and Harvard College Opera. The Rhodes Scholarship is a fully funded, full time, postgraduate award which enables talented young people from around the world to study at the University of Oxford. Casacuberta intends to eventually earn a PhD and looks forward to advancing her computer science studies.

USA BIOlympiad

USA Biolympiad

Preparations are now underway for the 2023 [USA Biolympiad](#) (USABO), the nation's most prestigious biology education and testing program for U.S. high school students. 580 schools registered for the exam, and more than 9,000 high school students are preparing for the online Open Exam on February 2. Marymount University will host the National Finals this spring. During the 10 days of the USABO National Finals, students participate cost-free in intensive theoretical and practical biology tutorials.

CEE's USABO Clubs are a catalyst for students to engage in biology experiences outside of the classroom with a network of resources. The Center serves a vital coordinating role, offering guidelines to organize a club, provides study resources, and assists with connections to alumni. USABO Clubs Coordinator **Olivia Krachenfels** said, "I'm so excited to be part of this CEE endeavor, which will include a podcast focused on research by USABO alumni and others."



Teacher Enrichment Program

CEE's Teacher Enrichment Program is hosting a College & Career Panel on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, from 5-6:15 p.m. (ET). The panel will discuss career and job opportunities in Information Technology and will touch on helpful and in-demand computer skills that teachers and students will find useful in this digital era. Register [here](#).

Last week TEP hosted a Bite of Science online seminar for Alabama STEM teachers on how STEM is useful in sports. The program featured **Aaron Barzilai** (RSI '88), Founder of Her Hoop Stats, and **Maya Ganesan** (RSI '14), Global Strategy & Innovation Manager for the National Basketball Association (NBA). [Watch the recording](#).

TEP Manager **Adeola Olagoke** is excited to organize more exciting, cost-free STEM opportunities for high school teachers to take back to their classrooms. "I look forward to linking STEM educators across the country with professional resources and connections to advance their careers and to directly benefit their students," she said. To date, more than 4,000 teachers from over 1,400 schools have participated, reaching more than 600,000 underserved rural and urban students to consider STEM careers. For more information about TEP or to sign up for TEP's newsletter, visit <https://www.cee.org/programs/teacher-enrichment-program>.



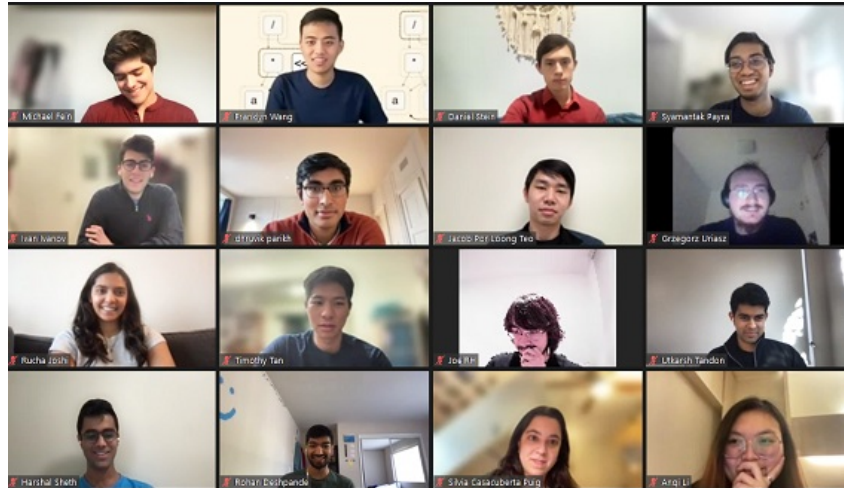
STEM Lyceums

CEE hosts its first STEM Lyceum of the year on Friday, February 3, 2023, from 4:30 p.m.-6 p.m. (ET). **Grace Wilson Jackson**, a Spacecraft Engineer at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, and **Marybeth Lilly**, Manager of Talent & Workforce Policy at the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA), will share their educational journeys and career pathways with high school students who demonstrate a strong STEM interest. **Sidharth Anantha** (RSI '19), a student at the University of Michigan studying Aerospace Engineering and Computer Science, and an intern at SpaceX, will also share his experiences. You are welcome to tune in. Register [here](#).

CEE's STEM Lyceums is a virtual club for high school students to learn about STEM professions and career pathways, provided at no cost to schools or students. Industry professionals share innovative research and offer unique learning experiences, internship opportunities, and scholarship offerings for highly-motivated STEM learners. Meetings foster critical thinking skills, encourage excitement for science, and prepare students to enter STEM careers. To date students have explored genomics, clean/renewable energy, nuclear engineering, the Internet of Things (IoT) in healthcare (smart devices), zoology, biomedical engineering, data science and cybersecurity. View a [playlist](#) of the programs on YouTube.

STEM Lyceums Manager **Erika Matthews** will conduct cost-free webinars that connect underserved high school students with an ecosystem of top industry professionals and innovators. She said, “Coming into the role of STEM Lyceums Manager from a traditional educator background, I am thrilled to connect motivated STEM scholars with the resources to achieve their academic potential and celebrate their growth throughout the semester.”

CEE’s STEM Lyceums partners include Virginia Bio, United Negro College Fund, and the Urban League of Hampton Roads. More information about STEM Lyceums is at <https://www.cee.org/programs/stem-lyceums>.



Zoom Reunions

A large group of Rickoids from the RSI class of 2017 recently gathered online. Most just finished their undergraduate stints at MIT or Ivy League schools, and are moving on to consulting, higher education, or tech startups. Singapore was strongly represented, even though it was 3 a.m. there!

Grzegorz Uriasz instructed alums in the perplexing art of conversation: “The thing about talking is you don’t necessarily need to convey any information; you just need to start talking.” These are wise words that helped to shepherd the group through their reunion.

CEE’s Zoom reunions not only help the Center connect with alumni through the years, but they are a wonderful opportunity for alumni from the U.S. and other nations to network. Many participants said they had never joined any kind of reunion before; their experiences were particularly exciting. **James Schuyler**, a 1988 Rickoid and CEE’s Webmaster & Alumni Liaison, is leading this initiative. Please contact him at jschuyler@cee.org if you can volunteer time to assist in this project.



Alumni: Please Update Your Information

If you have not recently done so, please take a moment to update your alumni information [here](#) so that the Center's staff can better plan alumni events and programs, including CEE's 40th Anniversary celebration Oct. 13-15, 2023 in Cambridge, MA. Thanks again for being part of CEE's special RSI and USABO alumni community.

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