

Volume 2 Issue 8, November 2022

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



Thank You!

The Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) participated in Giving Tuesday, a global day of giving that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. Giving Tuesday is held annually on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving in the U.S. to inspire people to support impactful charities and causes. Giving Tuesday coincided with CEE's 2022 Annual Fund campaign to support the Center's vital science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs. CEE's alumni and parent committees each seek to raise \$325,000 by December 31. All contributions to CEE advance the Center's STEM education mission to nurture the science and technology leaders of tomorrow. The Center is a GuideStar Platinum charity and has the top rating from GreatNonprofits. Donations are tax-deductible. CEE program alumni, parents, friends of the Center, and supporters of STEM education may give at www.CEE.org/donate.

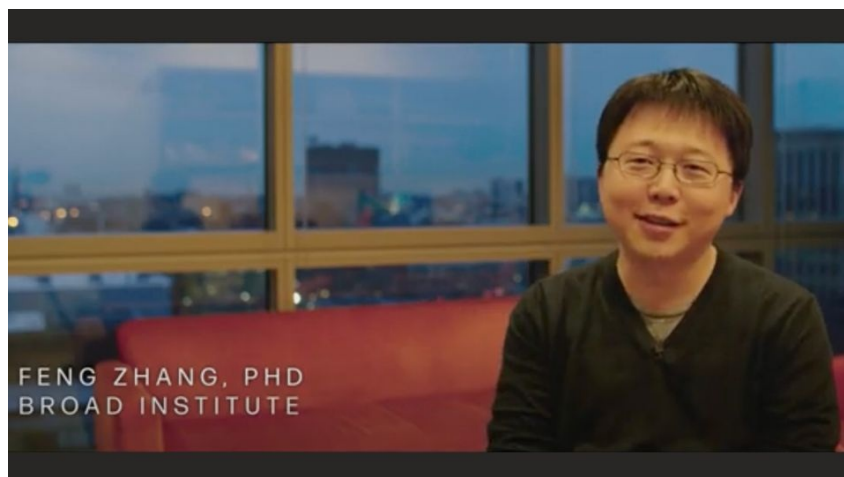


RSI

Applications remain open for CEE's 2023 Research Science Institute (RSI), collaboratively sponsored with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, Massachusetts on its campus. Students may apply at <https://www.cee.org/apply-rsi>. **The deadline is December 2, 2022.**

RSI '23 will be in session from June 25 to August 5, 2023. It will bring together top U.S. and international high school students who have completed comparable to three years of high school for an intensive, six-week program that provides students with the opportunity to conduct original, cutting-edge research. RSI continues to be cost-free for students to attend thanks to the generosity of donors.

CEE is also pleased to share the news that MIT has accepted CEE's proposal for the continued joint sponsorship of RSI on the MIT campus, and MIT has approved an additional number of RSI participants to be capped at 100. CEE thanks CEE Trustees **Wolfgang Ketterle**, **Tom Leighton**, **Mike Sipser**, **Feng Zhang**, and faculty members at MIT for making this happen!



Short Film on CRISPR Pioneer Feng Zhang

Enjoy a short film (<12 min) on CRISPR pioneer **Feng Zhang**. In the film, Zhang tells his journey into science and describes genome editing tools to the backdrop of fun, dynamic animations. It's both entertaining and educational. The film was recently produced by Science Communication Lab/iBiology, a San Francisco Bay Area nonprofit run by filmmakers, scientists, and educators who produce science documentaries, such as the award-winning [Human Nature](#) and [Picture a Scientist](#). Watch the film [here](#).

In 2015, Dr. Feng Zhang received the prestigious Lieberman Award for Outstanding Achievement in STEM and business. The Award acknowledges break-through work achieved by an alumnus of the Center's renowned RSI and USA Biology Olympiad (USABO). The Award is presented every two years to honor former U.S. Senator **Joseph Lieberman** of Connecticut, an Honorary Trustee at the Center. Dr. Feng Zhang attended CEE's RSI as a high school student in 1999 and is currently a member of CEE's Board of Trustees.

USA
BIOlympiad
2023

USA Biolympiad

Preparations are underway for 2023 USABO, the nation's most prestigious biology education and testing program for U.S. high school students. 560 schools registered for the exam, with 9,400 high school students preparing

for the online Open Exam on February 2, 2022, at no cost to the students. CEE's USABO staff has provided guidelines and held webinars on how to prepare for the exams. The recordings are available on [YouTube](#) and on the [USABO website](#).

You can help inspire students to explore the biological sciences by developing exam questions, being a USABO advocate in your local high school, and sharing information about USABO in conversation with friends. To learn more about how you can help, please contact **Kathy Frame**, Advisor & Consultant, at kframe@cee.org. The 2023 USABO National Finals will be conducted at Marymount University on its Arlington, Virginia campus from June 2 to 16, 2023.

CEE's USABO mission stimulates intellectual curiosity in young scholars and develops their critical thinking in laboratory skills and biological reasoning to propel them to careers of excellence and leadership in science and technology. Since CEE began administering the USABO in 2003, every member of the USA Biolympiad Team has medaled at the IBO when attended. All four members of the team were awarded gold medals in years 2004, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, and 2017. The team also achieved the coveted Number 1 position in the world in 2011 and 2013. The USA Biolympiad Team was awarded 2 gold medals and 2 silver medals at the 2021 International Biology Olympiad Challenge II, Lisbon, Portugal. For more information on USABO, visit <https://www.usabo-trc.org>.



Teacher Enrichment Program

This fall CEE's Teacher Enrichment Program (TEP) hosted cost-free, in-person and virtual STEM education events, including Bite of Science workshops and College & Career Panels for STEM teachers and guidance counselors. Recordings of the events are posted on [YouTube](#). TEP provides opportunities for rural and urban high school teachers to connect with experts from industry and academia to make meaningful professional links to benefit students. TEP focuses on best practices, resources, and exposure to the breadth and depth of scientific discovery often not available to teachers and their students. All TEP resources and professional development events are cost-free to participants. To date, more than 4,000 teachers from over 1,400 schools have participated. The program has reached nearly 600,000 underserved rural and urban students to consider STEM careers. For more information and the schedule, visit <https://www.cee.org/programs/teacher-enrichment-program>.



STEM Lyceums

CEE's STEM Lyceums program consists of monthly virtual meetings to engage high school students in discussion and exploration of STEM concepts and unique STEM career pathways, provided at no cost to schools or students. Meetings foster critical thinking skills, encourage excitement for science, and prepare students to enter STEM careers. CEE's STEM Lyceums partners include Virginia Bio, United Negro College Fund, and the Urban League of Hampton Roads. This fall students explored zoology and biomedical engineering. The December meeting topic is data science and cybersecurity featuring guest speaker **Blythe Davis** (RSI '15), User Experience Designer and Researcher, Anaconda, Inc. Tune in on December 14 between 4-5:15 pm ET by registering [here](#). For more information, visit <https://www.cee.org/programs/stem-lyceums>.



CEE Alumni Events

Guests gathered recently in-person in Chicago and Boston for camaraderie, food, and networking with alumni and friends of RSI and USABO. The Keynote Speaker at The Chicago Club on Friday, November 4 was **Lauren Ancel Meyers**, PhD (RSI '90), the Cooley Centennial Professor of Integrative Biology and Statistics & Data Sciences at The University of Texas at Austin. The event host was **Jason L. Koh**, MD, MBA, FAAOS (RSI '85), Mark R. Neaman Family Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery and Director, Orthopaedic & Spine Institute, NorthShore University HealthSystem; and Clinical Professor, Orthopaedic

Surgery, The University of Chicago. The Boston Bash event was held at the Broad Institute in Cambridge on Monday, November 7 and was hosted by CEE Trustee **Feng Zhang**, PhD (RSI '99), Core Member, Broad Institute, and Developer of CRISPR; and **David Cheng** (RSI '99), CTO, Arbor Biotechnologies. This annual alumni event brings together over 100 RSI & USABO scholars for an afternoon of camaraderie and fun!



Federal Reserve Visit

On November 18, 23 Rickoids had the honor to visit the Federal Reserve Building in Washington, DC. This educational event was limited to undergrad and graduate students only of CEE's RSI and USABO programs.

Zoom Reunions

An enthusiastic group of 25 Rickoids from the RSI class of 2015 gathered online in mid-November to catch up on the last seven years. Most participants are finishing their advanced degrees or working in AI, biotech, or finance, with (as in many RSI classes) a few focused directly on improving the health of the planet. One Rickoid said that AI has progressed to the point where it can help write novels. Isaac Asimov would be proud, but Ray Bradbury would be horrified. Who's right? Perhaps that's what RSI 2015 figured out in overtime; the last attendees didn't log off until three hours had passed. What a dedicated community!

These Zoom reunions not only help the Center connect with alumni lost through the years, but they are a wonderful opportunity for alumni from the U.S. and other nations to network. Many participants say they have never joined any kind of reunion before, and their experience was 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.



Holiday Party is December 17!

CEE's Annual Rickoid Holiday Party is always a fun evening to enjoy the camaraderie of old and new friends, with lots and lots of turkey, ham, linguini, and Italian desserts. This year the party is on Saturday, December 17, 2022, starting at 7 p.m. at Ms. D's home at 11740 Quay Road, Oakton, Virginia 22124. Alumni and friends of the Center typically fly in from all over the world and some stay overnight. Please RSVP by December 14, 2022, [online](#). Contact Maite at maite@cee.org or (703) 448-9062 with any questions.



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 in 2023. Thanks again for being part of CEE's special RSI and USABO alumni community.

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