

Celebrating 35 Years of

Excellence

Center for Excellence in Education

2017-2018 Alumni Campaign

Donor Profile

Nathan (RSI '91) and Paola Bronson are longtime generous supporters of CEE. The Bronsons have also taken the additional important step to request that their gift be matched by Paola's employer, Biogen. This has significantly increasing the impact of their donations over the years.

Nathan has been employed since 2011 at Facebook, where he works on Facebook's core data infrastructure. Paola has been employed by Biogen since 2015, where she leads genetic studies of multiple sclerosis progression to identify therapeutic targets and to inform patient treatment decision making.

Both Nathan and Paola completed their undergraduate studies at Duke University, with Nathan earning his B.E. in Electrical Engineering and Paola her B.S. in Biology. Nathan then went on to complete his M.S. and Ph.D. in Computer Science at Stanford, while Paola completed her M.P.H. in Epidemiology and Biostatistics and also her Ph.D. in Epidemiology at the University of California, Berkeley.

Nathan believes “to tackle big problems one must factor complexity into pieces that can each fit in someone's brain, and that the key to such factoring is to create abstractions that hide complexity behind a simple mental model. I have applied (and continue to apply) this technique to problems that range from fine-grained multithreading to massive distributed systems.”

Paola's passion is epidemiology – understanding disease in order to improve human outcomes. “I attack the problem from the genetics side, designing and conducting sequencing and GWA (genome-wide association) studies.” Paola is most interested in “the interplay of genetics & environment in disease, and the functional impact of non-coding regions of DNA.”

Like Nathan and Paola, you may be eligible to participate in a matching gift to the Center for Excellence in Education. Sixty-five percent of Fortune 500 companies offer a matching gift program and some companies even double, triple, or quadruple donations. You can check your employer's participation in matching gifts at <https://doublethedonation.com/cee>.

Alumni Campaign Update

With five weeks left in the 2017-18 Alumni Campaign, 384 generous RSI and USABO alumni have made gifts totaling just over \$325,000. We are nearing our \$350,000 target and welcome all gifts towards our alumni participation goal. Please take a few moments to make your online gift today at www.cee.org/donate. Your participation will help future scholars to have the same great cost-free STEM opportunity that CEE afforded you in your high school years.

Webinar



[Innovators & Scientists Needed](#)

The Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) will host “Innovators & Scientists Needed,” a one-hour webinar on Thursday, March 1 at 12 noon (ET). [CLICK HERE](#) to register for this exclusive peek into the future led by our panel of STEM science, technology, engineering, and business experts who are part of world-changing innovations and science.

Alumni Announcements

- The Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) congratulates the ten 2017 RSI scholars selected among the 40 finalists for the [Regeneron Science Talent Search](#).
- Calling Rickoid Web Developers: The Center seeks alumni or friends experienced in website design for an upgrade to www.CEE.org. Knowledge of Drupal and WordPress required. Contact Maite@CEE.org.

Important Dates

- **Good luck to the 10,000+ high school students** who took the USABO Tier 1 Open Exams – the Center is in the process of scoring the exams; Tier 2 testing will begin March 12.
- **March 29, 2018:** Alumni Reunion at Pinterest Headquarters in San Francisco, 5-7 p.m., with remarks by Pinterest founder Ben Silbermann (RSI '98)
- **April 18, 2018:** CEE Annual Congressional Luncheon, Russell Senate Building, Washington, D.C.
- **June 24 – July 6, 2018:** USA Biology Olympiad (USABO) Finals at University of California, San Diego.
- **June 24 -- August 4, 2018:** 2018 Research Science Institute (RSI) at MIT in Cambridge, MA.
- **October 12 – 14, 2018:** CEE 35th Anniversary Weekend and Alumni Reunion in Cambridge, MA.

Opinion

- [Im/Possible](#) by Joann DiGennaro
- [Support Top Academic Talent](#) by Joann DiGennaro
- [Dropping the Ball on Geek Power](#) by Joann DiGennaro

CEE News

- [This Valentine's Day Consider the Gift of Heart Healthy Dark Chocolate!](#)
- [Misbranding Of The Flu](#)
- Donor Profile: [Kelley Harris](#) (USABO '03, RSI '04)
- The [Super Blue Blood Moon](#) on January 31, 2018
- Donor Profile: [Admiral H.G. Rickover](#)
- [Additional CEE and Campaign News](#)