

# Excellence

## Center for Excellence in Education

2017-2018 Alumni Campaign

### Alumni Campaign Update

As of February 1, 2018, 375 CEE alumni have made gifts totaling more than \$322,000 to the 2017-18 Alumni Campaign, which is 92% of our \$350,000 goal. 59 CEE alumni, representing both CEE's Research Science Institute (RSI) and USA Biology Olympiad (USABO) programs, have made their *first* gift to the Center during this Campaign.

*Every* gift is important as we progress towards our goals by March 31, just eight weeks away.

If you have already made your gift, **THANK YOU!** If you have not yet participated, please visit [www.cee.org/donate](http://www.cee.org/donate) today. Please do your part to ensure the longevity of the Center for Excellence in Education, RSI and USABO.

### Donor Profile



Kelley Harris (USABO '03, RSI '04), from Sacramento, CA, fondly remembers USABO as “the first place I got to connect with a big group of nerds who were really intense about their science dreams. I have lots of fond memories of bonding with them, staying up all night together when the program was ending and still somehow navigating Dulles to my first solo flight home.

“By teaching me a lot about biology early on, USABO taught me that I really liked the subject, but that I also wanted to learn other things before deciding on a long term career path. I ended up majoring in math and spending a bunch of time learning fun abstract ways of thinking, but I always had a feeling that I wanted to circle back to biology. Eventually I became a population geneticist, which lets me combine what I like best about empirical science and mathematical thinking.”

Kelley built on her USABO experience by attending RSI the following summer. She completed her undergraduate studies at Harvard in Mathematics in 2009, spent a fellowship year in Cambridge, United Kingdom, and completed her Ph.D. at UC Berkeley in applied mathematics with a designated emphasis in Computational Biology in 2015. Kelley was a postdoctoral fellow in the Stanford Genetics department from 2015 to 2017 before recently starting a tenure-track assistant professor position in the University of Washington's Department of Genome Sciences.

In 2017, Kelley received a \$500,000 Burroughs Wellcome Fund Grant for her work, “Decoding the evolutionary history of DNA replication fidelity from whole genome sequences.”

In her spare time Kelley enjoys exploring the outdoors. While living in California she explored most of the national parks and forests in the state. She is excited to explore new “outdoor stuff” in Washington state. Additionally, after having compared most of the “pretentious coffee shops” of San Francisco, Kelley looks forward to sampling the java in another serious coffee city.

### 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](http://www.CEE.org). Knowledge of Drupal and WordPress required. Contact [Maite@CEE.org](mailto:Maite@CEE.org).

### Important Dates

- “Innovators & Scientists Needed” [webinar](#), details TBD
- **February 6-16:** USABO Tier 1 Open Exams
- **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.
- **Spring 2018:** 2018 USA Biology Olympiad (USABO) Finals at University of California, San Diego; dates TBD.
- **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

- The [Super Blue Blood Moon](#) on January 31, 2018
- Donor Profile: [Admiral H.G. Rickover](#)
- Admiral H. G. Rickover’s [Basic Principles for Doing Your Job!](#)
- Admiral Rickover [Quiz](#), views on [education](#), memorable [quotes](#), and biographical [profile](#).
- Donor Profile: [Michael Mitzenmacher](#) (RSI'86)
- Donor profile: the [Dienes family](#) (RSI '88 and RSI '16)
- [Additional Campaign News](#)