The Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) has made scheduling changes for the well-being and safety of students, teachers, and all essential staff due to COVID-19. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) canceled all K-12 summer programs on its campus so the Research Science Institute (RSI) will not take place as traditionally structured for the first time in 36 years. However, online virtual programming, exciting virtual activities, and remote research mentorships are planned for the students. RSI’s older alumni are instrumental in providing the mentorships for this project.

The RSI Selection Committee, comprised of distinguished STEM professionals, met at CEE in mid-February 2020 to select students chosen for academic merit, demonstrated leadership, and scientific achievement. Selection was also based on standardized test scores, high school grades, essay submissions, teacher recommendations, and demonstrated potential to become future STEM leaders. 54 outstanding U.S. students were selected, along with 32 young scholars from Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Indonesia, India, (Continued on Page 2)

CEE will hold its Annual Congressional event as a virtual unique and exciting meeting of guests on Friday, May 22 from 12-2 p.m. Attendees will include leaders from business, education, government, and program alumni. The importance of technology in STEM education will be the focus at the celebration. RSVP here.
Ireland, Kazakhstan, Korea, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey.

The 2020 Research Science Institute (RSI) was scheduled for June 21- August 1 on the MIT campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The RSI will now take place virtually.

The Center’s RSI program continues to be nationally and internationally recognized with nations waiting for an opportunity to send scholars to this prestigious, cost-free program.

Seven RSI alumni are among the top 40 finalists in the Regeneron Science Talent Search 2020, the nation’s oldest and most prestigious science and math competition for high school seniors. They are: Cynthia Chen, San Jose, CA; Lauren Chen, Irmo, SC; Helena Jiang, Gainesville, Florida; Rupert Li, Portland, OR; Jason Liu, Reno, NV; Nadine Meister, Ellicott City, MD; and Zhifei Yu, Phillips Academy, Andover, MA.

“This is a wonderful accomplishment for Research Science Institute alumni and CEE,” said Joann DiGennaro, CEE President. “I am so very proud of these students who represent the future of U.S. global leadership in science and technology.”

The Regeneron Science Talent Search finalists were selected from 300 scholars and from nearly 2,000 entrants based on the originality and creativity of their scientific research, as well as their achievement and leadership both inside and outside of the classroom. The full list of RSI alumni finalists and their research topics can be viewed here. The students are geographically represented from across the United States.

The Society for Science & the Public and Regeneron postponed the 2020 Regeneron Science Talent Search, originally planned for March 5-11 in Washington, D.C., until this summer.

The 2020 USA Olympiad Finals, which were planned to be held at Marymount University, have been canceled by a decision from CEE’s Board of Trustees. Although the final exam was moved up to late April, many high schools notified CEE that they would remain closed throughout spring. The exam could not be given online. The International Olympiad Committee also subsequently canceled the global competition.

Nearly 500 U.S. high schools registered for the 2020 USABO. Semi-finalists representing approximately 10 percent of the 5,300 test-takers were awarded certificates for their academic achievement.

Over 100,000 high school students, representing 47 states, have participated in the annual USA Biolympiad since 2002 when the competition was inaugurated. In 2019 nearly 10,000 students registered to participate in this prestigious opportunity. The USABO mission concentrates on stimulating young scholars’ intellectual curiosity and developing their critical thinking in laboratory skills and biological reasoning to propel them to careers of excellence and leadership in science and technology.
CEE’s Teacher Enrichment Program (TEP) had a great start to the 2019 – 2020 school year, hosting 12 sessions in under-represented urban and rural districts of Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and California. While all remaining in-person events for the school year have been canceled due to COVID-19, teachers will be provided with quality remote learning resources to help supplement teachers’ curriculum through this unprecedented time.

Additionally, TEP is working to provide teachers with virtual Bite of Science webinars to connect them with leading STEM experts across the country. These efforts will provide teachers with new ideas and captivating materials that complement and enhance their online teaching experience. October regional meetings for 100 teachers are planned with speakers and hands-on classroom activities in Virginia and in Indiana.

TEP also is thrilled to welcome Molly Allen to its team. Her prior experience in middle and high school science education will be invaluable as TEP works to expand its reach both geographically and digitally. TEP is working to create a continuum of learning experiences and resources that provide teachers with high level STEM content that informs their practice.

TEP connects industry and academic representatives with teachers to create awareness of STEM career fields, the job skills required, and opportunities for their students to explore STEM subjects and career paths. TEP programming has been made available to teachers in California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and West Virginia. CEE collaborates with community colleges, universities, corporations, state agencies, and STEM representatives committed to improving teaching and learning. All TEP resources and professional development events are cost-free to participants. More than 3,200 teachers from 1,389 schools have participated in TEP’s programming, positively impacting the STEM education of 543,000 students.

As asked why the change in naming submarines for individuals instead of fish, Admiral Rickover retorted: “Fish don’t vote!”
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In 1983, Admiral H.G. Rickover received the first gift to CEE of $250 for a university lecture. Over the past 36 years, more than 4,300 donors—including alumni, friends, parents, corporations, foundations and organizations—have supported the Center’s mission to nurture high school and university scholars to careers of excellence and leadership in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and to encourage international collaboration between and among leaders in the global community. Today, CEE’s 2,800 alumni represent all 50 U.S. states and 56 countries. Joann DiGennaro, the Center’s cofounder, continues to carry the organization to new heights in national and international recognition.

CEE’s world-renowned STEM programs are unique because they are offered cost-free to participants, thereby eliminating economic barriers to participation by teachers and students. Cost-free programming is only possible because of the thousands of donors that have invested in the Center’s students and teachers. As a nationally-respected nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, CEE has earned the top four-star rating by Charity Navigator, and GuideStar’s highest level of recognition—Platinum—for transparency.

Every gift to CEE has a measurable impact, and enables deserving scholars and teachers to further their STEM education through unique and impactful experiences. Be a champion for STEM by supporting CEE with a gift. And tell a friend about the Center’s great work.
**Where Are CEE Alumni Now?**

**Josie (Weeks) Haspel,** RSI ’01, is Senior Vice President, Corporate Strategy, at Wells Fargo in California. She holds an A.B. in Physics from Harvard and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. She is married to **Dan Haspel,** RSI ’98. They are parents of two children.

**Jenny Hoffman,** RSI ’94, is a quantum physicist and professor at Harvard University. She received her B.A in Physics from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of California, Berkeley. She is the recipient of the 2005 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers and a Sloan Research Fellowship. She is married to **Daniel T. Larson,** RSI ’93, and they have three children.

**Eric Paniagua,** RSI ’04, is a Software Engineer with Google. He focuses on programming language theory and type systems theory at the heart of Google Search. Eric studied mathematics and computer science at Caltech.

**Hachem Alaoui Soce,** RSI ’03, is General Manager at Lime. He holds a B.S. in Aerospace, Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering from MIT. He earned an MBA in Entrepreneurial Management from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

**Alumni Events**

Nearly 80 CEE Alumni, Trustees, staff, and Friends of CEE gathered in December for Ms. D’s Annual Holiday Party in her home. CEE President Joann DiGennaro welcomed the alumni and guests, gave an update on the state of the Center, and provided plenty of food with 14 Italian desserts.

CEE’s alumni event in Seattle, Washington was hosted in November by Madrona Venture Partners and **Sid Shenai,** CEE Trustee, RSI ’99. It was a terrific networking opportunity for young and old alumni. Admiral **Bill Owens,** CEE Trustee, provided remarks to the guests.
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. Dr. Douglas Himberger, CEE Trustee, serves as chair of the Committee. RAC members welcome 2020 RSI and USABO parents into the CEE family and plan new ways to involve parents in ongoing CEE activities.

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. Follow CEE on social media: