Hi!

Welcome back! We hope you had a restful break and will have a great start to the new semester! Here's what's included in our newsletter this week:

1. OUR Spring Office Hours
2. 2020 Communicating Science Conference VT (links included)
3. Deadline approaching: Present your research at ACC Meeting of the Minds
4. Summer Research and Design Experience for Undergraduates with SCI Program
5. Summer 2020 Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) in Rehabilitation Engineering
6. Summer Research Program in Comparative Regenerative Biology and Aging
7. Summer Research Program in Integrating Computation and Experiment to Create Revolutionary Materials
8. Summer Research Program in Data Science for Agriculture

1. OUR Spring Office Hours

The OUR Ambassadors are back in action and ready to help! Drop by during OUR office hours to speak with an ambassador. All office hours are hosted in Burruss Hall, Suite 104.

- Mondays, 10am-11am
- Tuesday, 8am-9am
- Wednesday, 1pm-2pm
- Thursday, 4pm-5pm
- Friday, 11am-12pm

You can also contact Ambassadors directly through their webpage.

2. 2020 Communicating Science Conference VT (links included)

Do you want to learn how research findings can be communicated to general public, but don't know how or where to start? Upper level undergraduates are invited to apply for the Communicating Science (ComSciCon-Virginia Tech) workshop, to be held on February 27th and 28th, 2020! The ComSciCon workshop is designed to empower students to communicate complex and technical concepts that arise in research in STEAM fields to broad and diverse audiences! Free to all students, this year’s conference theme is Inclusion, Diversity, and Accessibility in Science Communication. Attendees will have the opportunity to choose their own science communication adventure and attend workshops in the morning and afternoon of February 28th. Workshops include finding the story in your research, condensing your research into a nutshell, learning about accessibility, sci comm careers, social issues, policy and advocacy work, and MORE! The application for the workshop is OPEN until February 3rd but spots are limited so register NOW at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc2Y7P_LXokswnlgdM4kcZ_T6xkOs1kPsbe7PH_xui48Er5Vg/viewform.
Please contact ComSciCon organizing committee co-chairs Stephanie Edwards Compton (sedwrds3@vt.edu) or Susan Chen (schen518@vt.edu) with questions.

3. Deadline Approaching: Present your research at ACC Meeting of the Minds

The 15th annual ACC Meeting of the Minds Conference will be held on March 20-22, 2020 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This conference, funded in part by football championship dollars, focuses on excellence in undergraduate research and creative scholarship at the 15 ACC member schools and represents the power and synergy that can exist between athletics and academics.

This year, each ACC school will select five exceptional representatives from diverse research areas to attend the ACC MOM conference. Successful applicants receive full support for travel and accommodations. Interested? Learn more about the VT application process and apply to present here. The application deadline is January 29, 2020 at noon. Please note that this conference only allows one student presenter per project.
If you have questions, please contact Keri Swaby (email: kswaby@vt.edu).

4. Summer Research and Design Experience for Undergraduates with SCI Program

The Veterans Research Foundation of Pittsburgh (VRFP), in partnership with the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation and the Human Engineering Research Laboratories (HERL), are pleased to announce a 10-week summer research internship for individuals with SCI.

Many undergraduate engineering students seek opportunities where they can make a meaningful, positive difference and serve others in a way that truly affects lives. For individuals with SCI who share this desire, full participation in STEM fields is often limited. The Research and Design Experience for Undergraduates with SCI (Program) at the VRFP (http://vrfpittsburgh.org/) will provide opportunities and mentors in Rehabilitation Engineering (RE) that will serve as a catalyst for future growth and success in STEM programs of study and careers.

The primary objective of the program is to provide students with SCI an exemplary mentoring and resourceful environment that highlights opportunities in STEM. The program will enroll six (6) highly motivated undergraduate students with SCI majoring in diversified areas of engineering, computer science or related fields, such as rehabilitation science, who attend universities and colleges that do not offer a structured Rehabilitation Engineering (RE) undergraduate research opportunity.

For more information, and to access the program application, please visit: vrfpittsburgh.org/about-us

5. Summer 2020 Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) in Rehabilitation Engineering

The University of Pittsburgh's Human Engineering Research Laboratories (HERL) is currently accepting
applications for the summer 2020 Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Rehabilitation Engineering program – ASPIRE.

ASPIRE | Human Engineering Research Laboratories | University of Pittsburgh

The REU at the HERL is designed to promote greater involvement and understanding of rehabilitation engineering and assistive technology. The attached flyer provides a detailed description of the program, and we ask that you share the flyer with colleagues and students at your institutions, as well as with peers at other colleges and universities.

Program Highlights

May 18, 2020 – July 23, 2020

• Open to undergraduates majoring in science, engineering, math, and computer science
• $ 4,750 stipend
• Housing
• Minorities, women, student veterans, and students with disabilities are encouraged to apply

Application deadline: February 28, 2020

6. Summer Research Program in Comparative Regenerative Biology and Aging

The MDI Biological Laboratory’s REU program aims to engage students in scientific explorations in the Laboratory’s research focus area, Comparative Regenerative Biology and Aging, while providing them with opportunities to build skills important to successful careers in the biological sciences. Research opportunities focus on uncovering basic cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying regenerative and aging processes in various animal model systems, including zebrafish, nematodes, axolotls, and mice. Students will have access to state-of-the-art research laboratories and core facilities, support staff, and our inspirational coastal setting. Students will join in MDI Biological Laboratory’s active scientific community, which includes other undergraduate research fellows, visiting scientists, graduate students and post-docs as well as research assistants. Our program is:

During the 10 week REU fellowship, all students will participate in a scientific communication course and hone their technical writing, oral, and poster presentation skills. In addition, students will participate in a Bioentrepreneurship Workshop and receive advanced training in Microscopy and Bioinformatics. At the end of the fellowship, students present their findings at our annual Summer Science Symposium. Families and friends are invited to attend.

Online applications require the uploading of student-copy transcripts with fall semester grades, a resume/CV, and answers to several essay questions. Two faculty references are required, which are requested through the online application form.

Apply Now
Decision notification letters are sent to applicants in late March/early April.

2020 Session Dates:

Arrival: Sunday, May 31
Student Symposium: Friday, August 7, at MDI Biological Laboratory (Family Event)
Departure: Saturday August 8

7. Summer Research Program in Integrating Computation and Experiment to Create Revolutionary Materials

Who: Undergraduate students in STEM, particularly first and second years
What: Participate in an interdisciplinary research team
Where: Colorado School of Mines, Golden CO
When: May 18th – July 31st (11 weeks)

Topics: Materials science: renewable energy, 3D printing, semiconductors, materials for extreme environments
Computer science: data visualization, artificial intelligence
Engineering: robotics and automation

Student research projects will involve two or more of the above disciplines; the common theme will be generating and analyzing large datasets to guide scientific discovery

Support: Stipend, room and board, and travel allowance are provided

Priority deadline: Feb. 15
Apply now at: mines.edu/materialsreu/mines

This REU program is funded by the National Science Foundation through award #1950924

8. Summer Research Program in Data Science for Agriculture

Purdue University will offer again in 2020, a 10-week paid summer program regarding data science for agriculture. Any undergraduate college student (at least 1 semester completed) with US Citizenship or permanent residency is eligible. In this program, students will extend their data science skills in assorted areas of agriculture. Whether novice or with some experience (and we had both previously), students will learn more in Excel, Python, Unix shell, and ArcGIS. There is a mix of some hands-on class time and independent work. The program culminates with an independent research project.

Last years' participants came from 6 different institutions around the country and were very pleased with the experience. Several are now using these instructors as references for jobs and graduate school.
This is an opportunity to spend a summer well and be even more qualified for data driven agriculture. See the flyer for more information or visit [https://engineering.purdue.edu/~dbuckmas/teaching/REEU/info.htm](https://engineering.purdue.edu/~dbuckmas/teaching/REEU/info.htm) to learn more details about the program that also includes related tours and activities.

Instructors come from several departments including Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Statistics, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Agronomy, and Entomology. Note that applications are due on Feb 3, 2020.

Have a great week!

Best,
Keri

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