

Information Session

The National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates

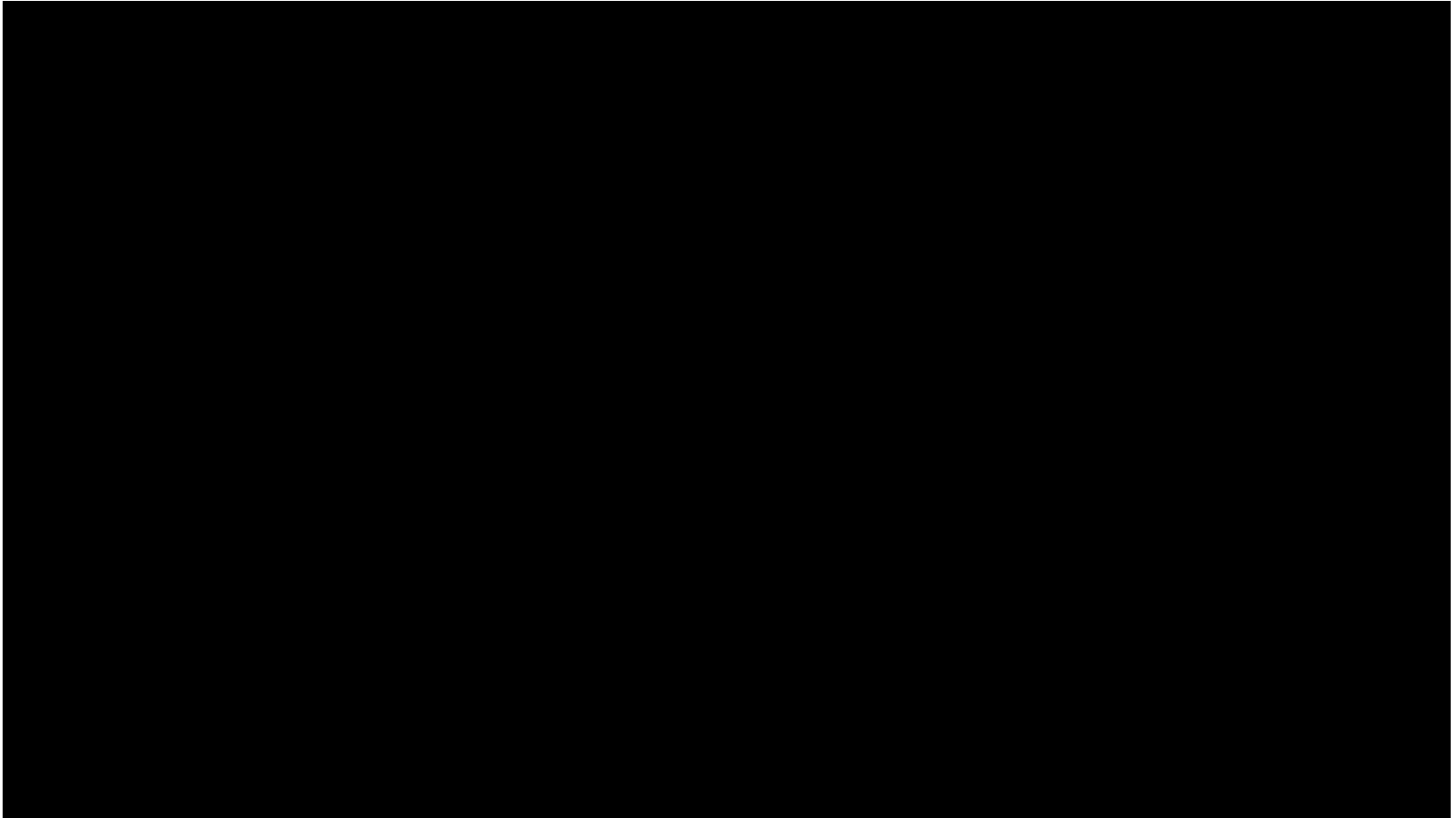


Fall 2016

Seidenberg
School of Computer Science
and Information Systems



The National Science Foundation



“Foundation for Innovation” [4 min video](#) .

What is the NSF?

- *Federal agency that funds basic research (budget \$7.5bn).*
- *Researchers apply for grants to support their projects, including support for student researchers.*
- *THE major source of funding in many fields, such as Computer Science.*

What are the REU programs?

Research Experience for Undergraduates:

- REU site: group of ~10 undergrads who work in a research program of the host institution.
- Each student associated to one project to work closely with a faculty and other researchers.
- Students are granted stipends. Sometimes housing and travel.
- Must be citizen or permanent resident.
- Must apply to go!

What projects and where?

REU sites:

- All over USA – paid research experiences.
- Many topics – digital forensics, data mining, robotics, wireless sensors, ...

REU sites in CS: https://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/list_result.jsp?unitid=5049

What projects and where?

A few examples:

Delaware: <https://youtu.be/ENZgQcq8AYQ>

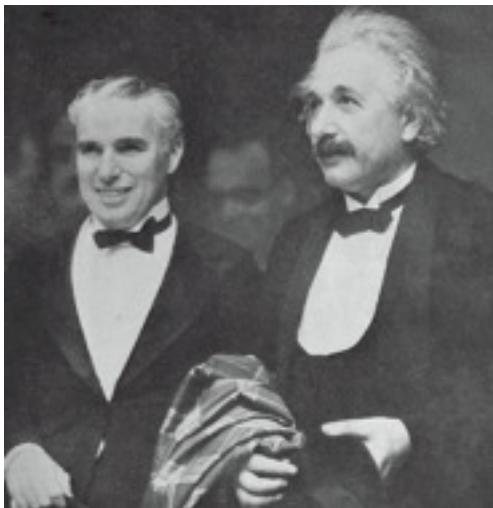
Kansas: <https://youtu.be/Q7jbyxwSjW0>

Syracuse: <https://youtu.be/jtKSG2dNSBA>

NSF-REU impact on YOU

*bumps your CV up
...a lot!!!*

*either as a
research assistant,*



*also for
industry.*

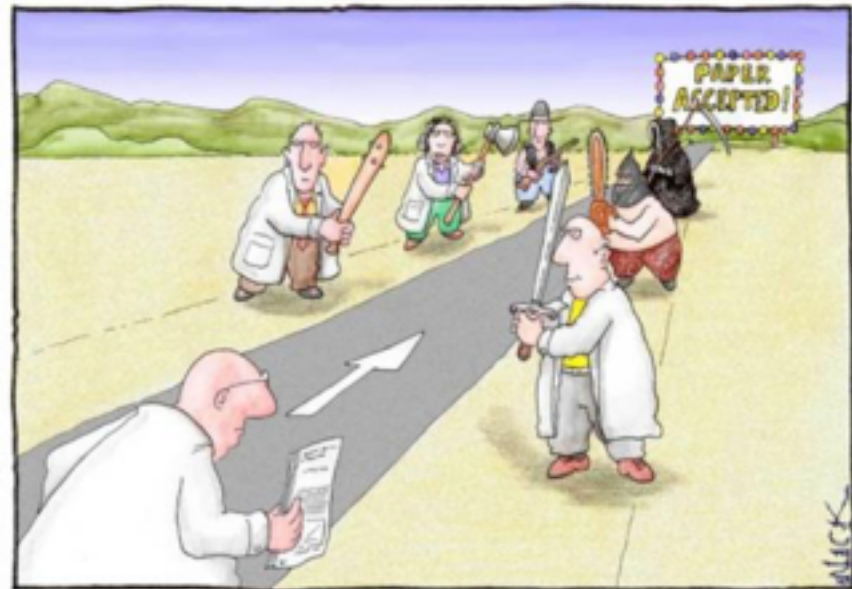


NSF-REU impact on YOU



*get a recommendation from
someone outside Pace,*

*and publish
a(nother) paper.*



Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process
as "quite an improvement."

NSF-REU impact on YOU

2006 AMS Survey of REU Graduates (F. Connolly and J. A. Gallian)

Survey consisting of 30 questions about REU experience sent to 444 students, 262 responded:

- Valuable: 84 %, somewhat valuable: 15.78%, not valuable: 0.22%.*
- 82% entered graduate school, of these, 78% said REU was a factor in their decision.*
- 18% did not go to graduate school, of these, 32% said REU was a factor in their decision.*

When?

*Crucial for rising seniors!
last chance before graduation*



Notice, in Fall 2017:

- *you'll apply for grad school*
- *or you will interview for jobs.*

When?

Also if you are not a junior!

- sophomores: you may get it (more time to publish), but even if you don't, at least you will learn how to improve your skills for the next round.
- seniors: even if you already have after-graduation plans, you can have a last-summer research experience before diving into your new endeavors.



CLASS OF
2019


Class of
2017

So, NOW!

Steps:

1. Search early (**NOW**) the [REU sites](#)
2. Apply on time (deadlines around Jan-Feb).
3. Apply to all that “qualify”, that is
 - a project that fulfills your interests,
 - you have the skills needed.
4. Be thorough:
 - contact your potential mentor.
 - get **strong** letters or recommendation.
 - prepare comprehensive but **relevant** resume.
 - prepare the application carefully.
5. **Ask for help!**

Questions?



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