Undergraduate Research

Undergraduate research is an integral component in undergraduate education. I would like to stress a few important aspects about undergraduate research that you want to keep in mind:

1. **Your priority should be in your class work.** Make balanced investment of your time and effort not to affect your academic performance.
2. **Research requires patience.** The goal of your undergraduate research should not be producing papers for your graduate application. In many of physics research areas, meaningful results come out only after years of hard work and dedication. *The number of papers is not the only measure of research activity.*
3. **Research is a commitment.** Research is a mutual commitment between you and your advisor. Meaningful research requires consistent effort and dedication. I believe that students should be able to put at least around 12 hours/wk of their time on average. Of course, it is absolutely fine to relax your research time for exam or heavy homework weeks.
4. **It may not be your ultimate research field.** Your undergraduate research topic should not bind your future. Open your mind. Physics is much broader than what you have experienced!

Senior Thesis Award

If you have upper level GPA better than 3.5, you can submit honors Thesis based on your research conducted under the guidance of physics faculty. Your thesis will be Reviewed by the committee and the award will be presented in the reception for graduating seniors in April. There will be an official announcement in late February. So be prepared for this!

Plan your Summer. Research is one option!

**NSF REU Program**

It is an NSF funded summer research program at various REU sites in US and abroad. Students should survey the sites and apply individually. For 10 weeks, students will be involved in a specific research group and conduct research. Travel expenses and housing will be provided in addition to stipend of about $5,000 for the period. There will be an SPS meeting on REU in January. Stay tuned!


**DOE**

SULI (Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internship)

[http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/scied/erulf/about.html](http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/scied/erulf/about.html)

**Medical Physics**

AAPM Summer Undergraduate Fellowship Program


AAPM Minority Undergraduate Summer Experience


**APS/IBM Research Internship for Undergraduate Women**

On-line application by February 1 at


Questions to Barbara Jones at bajones@almaden.ibm.com.

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There will be an SPS meeting on REU in January (TBA). Please come and learn more about summer research.