

REU-Site (Summary) Student Evaluations
Summer- 2004
UAB

1. **How did you learn about this REU-site at UAB? If you came to know about this site through multiple sources then list all in detail.**
 - Professor approached and encouraged me.
 - I learned about it through a professor who recommended the program to me. Website.
 - List of summer research programs
 - I saw a poster in the science building back at my college.
 - I found out about the program by searching on the internet and then looking at the program website.
 - Flyer/poster in college Physics dept
 - I learned about it through browsing the internet.
 - UAB physics website.
 - I learned about REU through a brochure.
 - Flyer at school and academic advisor
 - There was a poster in my Physics building
 - NSF website link for Physics REU
 - Dr. Graves – Chemistry, UAB.

2. **Did you get a prompt response to your application and queries about this program?**
 - There was a problem with my teacher recommendations (were temporarily lost).
 - Yes.
 - Yes.
 - Yes.
 - It took longer to hear about my application than I expected, but it was fine.
 - Yes.
 - Yes, by e-mail
 - Yes.
 - Yes.
 - Yes.
 - Yes.
 - Yes.
 - Yes.
 - Yes.

3. **Comment on the lab facilities provided to you for your research project. If you think there are any areas where they can be improved then list them.**
 - I love my lab
 - Satisfactory. My professor provided me with the tools and materials needed for my experiment.
 - The lab equipment was good, but the organization could use a little work. There was stuff in there that wasn't being used and had not been used in a very long time.
 - I only used the computer lab. Computers were adequate.
 - The lab was good, no complaints. But the machine is as old as me.
 - The facilities in my particular lab were excellent.
 - I had everything I needed.
 - I feel that the SRI lab needs to be bigger so many experiments, only one laser.
 - The lab was great. Only wish I could have been able to get in easier after hours for things.

- My research was all on computer and I could not fully load my software onto the Del-Square machines. This caused problems all summer.
- We need better computing facilities and computers. Everything else great.
- Labs were very accessible and well kept!

4. **Comment on the adequacy of the computer resources provided to you. If you think additional computer resources should be provided then list them.**

- I love Del-Square. I should know, I lived there.
- While sufficient for work activities, computer resources should be updated to handle larger and more complex files without difficulty.
- Capacity for larger e-mails in Horde.
- The computer resources were great!! I was able to get access to a computer in the lab. Del-Square was very handy.
- Excellent.
- The computer resources were definitely adequate.
- I had Del-Square, plus a computer in my lab that only I used. Resources were great.
- Everything was good.
- Did not use, so do not have any comments.
- The computer resources were definitely adequate.
- Different web browsers on computers in Del-Square, also, Flash.
- Good.

5. **List your expectations, goals, and opinions of summer research experiences. Please compare your thoughts about this as before and after this summer experience at UAB**

6.

- Nothing gets done outside of Physics Department.
- Summer research experience should be an opportunity to give participants in depth involvement in research activities. While it was so for most of the course of the program, the amount of “non-research” work (i.e. presentation, poster and paper) took away from the research activities for short duration of the program.
- I was not sure how well I would enjoy my project, but when it began, I began to see how much of an enjoyment it would be.
- Before I came to UAB, I didn't know what to expect because this was my first internship. But after being here, I would say that there should be more activities for the REU students in which they can mingle (i.e. field trips, movie nights, etc.). Also, a meal plan would benefit because a lot of the money I earned went to food and I would have liked to have gone away from REU with more money:).
- Basically I just wanted to be able to live in Birmingham and make money while hopefully learning something. The program surpassed my expectations about how engaging my project actually ended up being and how dedicated I became to making it a success.
- Good. I met my goals of learning how to conduct and present scientific research (before = after).
- It was better than I expected and fulfilled my goals.
- Coming, I really did not know what to expect – so everything was new to me. My goal was to soak up as much knowledge as possible – I did that and got to help publish a paper.
- Before, I did not know what to expect. After, I learned a lot about my research and about life.
- Learned a lot, grew a lot as a research. Didn't get as much done as wanted, but had fun overall!
- I enjoyed my experience and all of the expectations and goals were met.
- My goals were to get better knowledge of my major and to see if it was something I would enjoy. I definitely saw a side to Bioengineering that I hadn't been exposed to and it excited me about my future field.

7. What did you find most interesting about your summer research experience? How you think this will assist you in reaching your long-term goals (graduate school and other career choice points)?

- The research process was most interesting: research, development, lab work, analysis, presentations, etc. was very valuable.
- The research project was fascinating. I hope to continue working on the research project throughout the rest of my undergraduate studies.
- The most interesting thing about the research was being able to understand the purpose and content of my project and work independently. This will help me in my graduate school and career.
- What I found interesting is the research I conducted with my mentor. Even though I wasn't fully enthused about the project, it gave me more of an idea of what project I would like to do next time. Also, this experience has challenged me and I learned a lot. I will take this experience with me throughout my college career.
- Having the opportunity to learn about and use astrophysics research techniques was really cool. It definitely reaffirmed my interest in the subject. After doing research this summer, I could easily see myself choosing a career in an academic field.
- I found the seminars on grad school and From Idea to IPS most interesting. The others were not good.
- The money.
- I was a little scared of research to start – but now find it was engaging and graduate is not as intimidating.
- You have to want perfection. Long term settling for anything is not an option. If you want to do something, then do it.
- The non-research side of the research is much more important than I thought. It'll be much easier to get more research opportunities with my experience and newfound knowledge.
- I liked learning about something that was previously unknown.
- It was interesting to see how the faculty interacted with each other and their graduate students.
- I went to implant retrieval meetings at the medical center and had a first hand experience with results of failed THA's & TKA's.

8. Did you get enough time to interact with the faculty mentors, graduate students and post-docs in your research group during the course of your research project?

- Yes, they were very supportive and helpful.
- Yes. My professor and graduate students were great and were extremely helpful in getting my research _____.
- Yes.
- Yes. My mentor was great and the grad students were there to help when I needed it.
- Yes.
- Yes.
- Yes – all day, everyday.
- Not really, with teachers teaching summer classes and writing proposals, 24 hours in a day is not enough.
- Yes. They were awesome.
- Yes.
- Yes.
- Yes. Dr. Eberhardt was very accessible.

9. Comment on the lectures offered at UAB on Scientific Communications, Ethics in Science and other special seminars? Did it help you in preparation of your final report dealing with your research at UAB?

- Very few were useful. Most presentations lacked gusto, audience participation, and usefulness. One seminar had us analyze a situation – that was fun and taught us what to expect in the academic world. Idea to IPO was absolutely FASCINATING! David Anthony Amazing! Mostly, thought, I dreaded going. It was nice to get to know REU Chemistry students. I think it is still a good idea to meet weekly for checkup and to talk about Physics stuff.
- Very interesting. Snacks during the presentation would help with attendance.
- Some of them actually did help, but the majority of them were slightly elementary in tone and in content.
- The seminars were very sorry. The only seminars I particularly enjoyed were the one with David Anthony and From Idea to IPO, Part I (Presenting Your Work).
- All in all, the lectures were the sort part of the program. The last one with the venture capitalist was great, but pretty much all of the rest felt like a waste of time. The seminar on writing a scientific paper (basically a middle school level lesson on comma use) was insulting to our intelligence.
- The presentation on Ethics in Science offered little to no new information and was rather boring.
- They were helpful in preparing the poster, otherwise not really important. The list of seminars was a major reason why I chose this program though.
- Not really, most of the information was common sense; the writing skills I learned for technical papers were taught to me by my mentor.
- I think the way they presented the lectures made 90% of them pointless.
- Too many, took away form lab times. Otherwise, mostly useful...
- The lectures were too long to be useful. They could have been compressed to 5 or 10 minutes.
- No. I'd already made a poster before and that was the only seminar I saw that held any potential to actually teach us something.
- Loved "IPO" with David Anthony. Like the "Choosing the Grad School." Did not enjoy the others.

10. Did you get a chance for social interactions with other REU students and Graduate students? Let us know in ways we could enhance these interactions.

- Grad students were friendly – good idea to invite them to pizza and picnic. But social interaction should be made a higher priority. People who are not Birmingham natives have little ties to the social stuff. We should have more encouragement to bond. We are different people with similar science interests.
- The picnic and BBQ were great. I would recommend a farewell lunch or dinner to get everybody together.
- Not much since I was at SRI all the time, but enough I guess.
- Yes, but these interactions could greatly be enhanced.
- I had a good opportunity to get to know the students.

- Yes, but more interaction might have been nice. In addition to picnic, maybe evening events could have been added (dinner, comedy club or something).
- Yes, there is plenty of social interaction.
- Grad students – but I didn't see a lot of REU's.
- I did sometimes, but I think there should be weekend functions like trips to amusement parks, museums, etc.
- Didn't do much, but enjoyed what I did. Very introverted, but social activities were very nice.

- Yes.
- Yes – perfect amount.

11. How would you compare it to other summer research experienced you had? Point out the positives and negatives in this regard (omit this question if you had no prior summer research experience).

- None
- It was comparable to the _____ of research I did in previous program. More outings to eat with professors help a lot to the experience.
- I can't, this is my first one.
- This is my 1st research experience.
- It was the best so far – people are friendlier down here in Alabama.
- The bar is set high because this was my first time.
- N/A
- Positive – more interaction between researchers. No negative.

12. Additional comments on any aspect of your REU-site experience, which is not covered by the above questions

- It is a struggle to survive the first month. No check, no food, etc. Can you fee us more? Parking passes? Camp sucks. Both poster and PowerPoint were good ideas. Professors are so friendly here. I ended up knowing many of them by name. That is super, I think. I was appalled that some professors were not present during their own students' presentations. I love Charita! She solves my problems and takes care of us.
- Great program.
- My mentor, lab folks, and other program participants were extremely helpful and friendly. My only problem was the housing arrangements. I had no hot water!! I heard construction workers working in the a.m. on occasion. The beds were hard.
- Plone computer system where we had to post stuff wasn't really helpful, just another pain. I would ski doing that next year. No hot water throughout summer – should help students address any such complaints.
- Put us in a dorm with hot water.
- Charita and Dr. Vohra bother were VERY useful and helpful in assisting me and answering all of my questions.
- It has been the best REU ever! Also – you should give parking permits to students next year.