Calhoun Honors College
They Make it Work!

Meet the EUREKA! 2015 Counselors

Hello Everyone! My name is Rebecca Jones and I am a rising sophomore from Anchorage, Alaska, majoring in Genetics. This summer I have been given the privilege of being your head EUREKA! Counselor. As a EUREKA! participant last summer, I worked to develop a self-amplifying biosensor that also enables detection of foodborne pathogens by the naked eye. I thoroughly enjoyed my research and continue to work in the same lab with the same professor, but have started a new project involving genetic engineering of microbial efflux pumps for biofuel production.

By the end of the EUREKA!, I realized I had just spent my summer in the best way possible. I gained 35 new friends, a vast knowledge of the campus, my first ever Chaco tan, and a passion for research. The weekend adventures were the highlights of my summer, but the freedom to go to the beach, play sand volleyball, watch movies, cook, or just talk with friends during my free time was just as enjoyable. My goal for this summer is to ensure that each of you get a social and academic head start on your college career, while having more fun than you ever thought possible. If you need further convincing to apply or simply have some questions about EUREKA! or Clemson in general, do not hesitate to contact me! I can’t wait to make this summer one of your best ever! Go Tigers!

Rebecca Jones, Genetics, (907) 947-2966, rajones@clemson.edu

Hey everyone! My name is Eric Joiner and I am a rising sophomore from Grafton, Massachusetts and majoring in Mechanical Engineering. I was very fortunate to be a participant in EUREKA! 2014, and I am so excited to be a counselor for the program this coming summer! I had the opportunity to work in Dr. Summers’ lab researching sand-tire interaction and developing prototype wheels that were tested using a dedicated off-vehicle tire-traction testing system. I loved my lab and continue to work on the same project I began during the EUREKA! program.

Those five weeks of EUREKA! turned out to be the best summer I could have ever asked for. I met so many great people, made amazing friends, and fell in love with the campus. Everything we did was so much fun, from spending the evening out on Bowman to those nights just hanging out in each other’s apartment goofing around. The highlight of my summer had to be the weekend camping trip, where we got to go zip lining and whitewater rafting. This summer I hope to welcome all of you into the Clemson family, get you excited for college, and have the most fun summer imaginable. If you have any questions about the program, or if you just want to talk about Clemson, feel free to contact me! I cannot wait for this summer and hope to see you here! Go Tigers!

Eric Joiner, Mechanical Engineering, (803) 528-8526, emjoiner@g.clemson.edu

What’s up guys! My name is Jared Reid, and I am a rising sophomore from Anderson, South Carolina majoring in Bioengineering. I will be serving as a counselor for the EUREKA! 2015 experience, and I can assure you that, if chosen, this summer will be amongst the best you’ve ever had! Though the research opportunities you will be given are fantastic and beneficial to your time at Clemson, this program provides incoming freshmen with the most ideal transitioning experience possible. Being in your position this past year, I understand how moving away from home and becoming more self-sufficient can be intimidating, yet the moment that your things have been moved into your summer housing, any hesitation you could possibly have will quickly be forgotten. All in all, my own experience with EUREKA! 2014 provided me with the passion I have to be a part of your own EUREKA! 2015 experience. I am thankful for the opportunity, and I truly look forward to being there for each participant. Whether this entails lending a helping hand, listening to any issues you may stumble upon, or offering my own guidance, I will be there! I can’t wait to meet you all and do not hesitate to contact myself or other counselor with any questions you may have! Go Tigers!

Jared Reid, (864)-634-0794, jjreid@g.clemson.edu

Meet a EUREKA! Faculty Mentor

Dr. Srikanth Pilla is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Automotive Engineering at CU-ICAR (Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research). His research focuses on fundamental understanding of the synthesis-processing-structure-property relationships in polymers, biopolymers, polymer derived ceramics, multifunctional composites, nanocomposites, thermoelectric materials, microcellular foams and LCA modeling and analysis. The title of his EUREKA! research project “Sustainable Composites for Lightweighting Automotive Structures” allows students to explore unique fiber architectures, novel renewable matrices and synthesis/manufacturing techniques for use in automotive interiors, exteriors and load-bearing structural applications. For the past two summers Dr. Pilla has worked with EUREKA! students who share his research interests and common desire to make notable contributions to the automotive industry.

Dr. Pilla’s EUREKA! experience

Since joining CU-ICAR in August 2013 Pilla continues to enhance the minds of his students while also showcasing their accomplishments after only a short time under his mentorship. In summer 2014 Pilla worked with incoming Honors freshman Kelly Krumm on a research project titled “Next Generation Sustainable Bicomposites for Automotive Applications.” Krumm won Best Poster award (first prize) in the undergraduate category at the 2014 Society of Plastics Engineers - Automotive Composites Conference and Exhibition. Pilla emphasizes the importance of performing rewarding
research but also having research rewarded at industry conferences. Krumm wasn’t the only contributor at this conference; his graduate students also received honors. Pilla continued his research in summer 2015 with two additional EUREKA! students. For him, the EUREKA! program is an opportunity to mentor some of the best minds that come to Clemson University. “Being a graduate (only) department, we have minimal opportunities to work with undergraduates but thanks to EUREKA! the doors have opened for access to these wonderful students, who might be our future recruits for graduate study,” says Pilla.

What Dr. Pilla has to say about the Honors College and EUREKA!

“The Honors College is providing a wonderful platform for incoming students with unique opportunities such as EUREKA! I commend their efforts and encourage continuing to do more to sustain the relationship, experience and scholarship, which will eventually benefit these students to pursue STEM graduate careers.”

Copyright © 2015 Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina (SC). All Rights Reserved.