

High achievers

Many students in the College of Science and Engineering take their learning to another level. These short news items highlight just a few.

Curt Christian, a biotechnology and biochemistry major, was selected from a group of nearly 400 applicants to conduct research for the summer of 2006 at The Jackson Laboratory through the Summer Student Program.

The Jackson Laboratory has a research staff of more than 450 scientists who investigate the genetic bases of cancer, heart disease, osteoporosis, Alzheimer's disease, glaucoma, diabetes, and many other human diseases and disorders, along with normal mammalian development and aging. The lab is the world's source for nearly 3,000 strains of genetically-defined mice and home of the Mouse Genome Database.

Megan Cleland, a 2005 graduate with a double major in biochemistry and biomedical science, is pursuing a Ph.D through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Graduate Partnerships Program at Johns Hopkins University in Bethesda, Md. Cleland was one of 600 students to apply and one of only six who were accepted into the prestigious program.

Cleland's first scientific publication is available online: <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v443/n7112/full/nature05111.html>.

Mohammad Salad, a former student recently accepted into dental school at the University of Minnesota, received the McNair Scholarship for summer research in 2005 under the direction of Lakshmaiah Sreerama, professor in the Department of Chemistry. He presented his research at a summer conference in Buffalo, N.Y. It has since been accepted for publication.

Amanda Meemken, a 2006 electrical engineering graduate now employed by IBM in Rochester, Minn., was a 2004 participant in the Research Experience for Undergraduates, sponsored by National Science Foundation. As a member of an IBM Speed Team in 2005, she helped invent a technology that has been selected by IBM for a patent.

Graig Legatt, who is double majoring in biochemistry and biomedical sciences, and Shanna Scully, a senior biochemistry major, each received \$500 from the COSE Student Professional Development Fund to present at the 233rd American Chemical Society (ACS) National Meeting in Chicago. More than 7,000 presentations and more than 12,000 scientists are expected.

Melanie Pudsey, a 2005 aviation graduate and women's hockey player, began her basic training as an officer cadet in fall 2006, in Quebec. A native of Ontario, Pudsey said her ultimate dream is to be a member of the 431 Air Demonstration Squadron Team, the Snowbirds.

Wai Chong "Vivian" Wong, a senior majoring in biochemistry, has been selected to participate in the Mayo Graduate School Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF). One of 65 chosen from the 1,000 applicants around the country, Wong will conduct research involving the genetic, biochemical and cellular analysis of polycystic kidney disease at the Harris Lab.

Biochemistry major Allissa Dillman was awarded a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Undergraduate Scholarship. The scholarship included an award of \$20,000 for the 2006-2007 academic year as well as a paid research training position at the NIH, in Bethesda, Md. for summer 2007 and the assurance of a year of employment at the NIH. Of 325 applicants, Dillman was among only 13 who received an award in 2006.

David Frank Grether Central Minnesota Regional Science Fair and Research Paper Program

Every year St. Cloud State University hosts the Central Minnesota Science Fair, where students in grades 6-12 present their projects and research papers. Projects are grouped and judged by category and grade level. An award ceremony follows the event.



Further information and registration forms can be found at the Regional Science Fair website:
<http://web.stcloudstate.edu/jfmckenna/Regional%20Science%20Fair/sciencefair.html>