CLP Announces the 2010 Undergraduate Summer Scholars

Adam Matsil (Biomedical Engineering), Lilyana Nezirova (Chemistry) and Michael Silliman (Chemical and Biological Engineering) have been selected to receive the CLP Undergraduate Summer Scholars Fellowship in recognition of their outstanding work in multidisciplinary research and future potential. The Summer Scholars Program enables select undergraduates to conduct in-depth research under the close supervision of a CLP faculty member. Fellows of the Summer Scholars Program work on their projects full-time for eight weeks in the summer. Each $4,000 fellowship covers research and living expenses over the full eight weeks of the summer period.

Adam Matsil, from Mount Kisco, New York, is a rising junior Biomedical Engineer in the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. As part of Guillermo Ameer’s laboratory, Adam will be researching the best conditions under which to isolate endothelial progenitor cells from donated blood samples in hopes that they would differentiate and then be used to line synthetic arteriovenous grafts in order to decrease clotting during prolonged dialysis treatment. Outside of academics, Adam is involved with Plus Energy: Students Fighting Cancer, a cancer awareness group on campus, as well as being the Rush Chairman for the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity. This will be his first experience working in the Ameer laboratory. After graduation, Adam seeks to pursue a Masters Degree in Biomedical Engineering.

A chemistry and psychology major, Lilyana Nezirova is a rising senior in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. As a member of Karl Scheidt’s laboratory, her research focuses on the synthesis of biologically active natural compounds. When not busy studying or conducting research, Lilyana facilitates a Gateway Science Workshop and shadows at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Lilyana is originally from Kochan, Bulgaria and has been living in Chicago since April 2000. After graduation, she hopes to attend medical school with a focus in cardiology.

Michael Silliman is a rising senior majoring in Chemical Engineering in the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. His research focuses on the induction of immunotolerance using antigen-coupled biodegradable PLGA microparticles in order to transplant islets cells more efficiently, with a goal of helping to treat diabetes. When not working in Lonnie Shea’s laboratory, Michael serves as a counselor for Project Wildcat and serves on the executive board of Delta Upsilon fraternity. Upon graduation, Michael plans to pursue a doctorate in Chemical or Biological Engineering with a desire to develop novel technologies for the treatment and diagnoses of various diseases.

The Chemistry of Life Processes Institute was founded in 2004 and was designed to unify the disciplines of chemistry, biology, engineering, and computational science. The Institute draws its membership from twenty-five faculty members whose departmental affiliations span three schools (Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, McCormick School of Engineering, and Feinberg School of Medicine) and seven departments within Northwestern University. Through research programs such as the CLP Undergraduate Summer Scholars Program, the Institute provides training and instruction to the next generation of multidisciplinary scientists. Additional information is available at http://www.clp.northwestern.edu/.