

# THE HU RESEARCH BEAT

The Office of the Vice President for Research NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 | Issue 4 October 2023

### **RESEARCH SCHOLARS — HU SPEAR**





The NIH supported Summer Pharmacy Experiences in Academic Research (SPEAR) offers a 10-week intensive hands-on research-training course to minority students from the School of Pharmacy at Hampton University (HUSOP). Dr. Anand Iyer, Dean of HUSOP, leads the program. Dr. Neelam Azad, Vice President for Research and Dr. Juan Yakisich, Assistant Professor at HUSOP serve as co-PIs. The program enrolled its first cohort in summer 2017 and held its most recent successful run in summer 2023 with 8 students enrolled from the Pharmaceutical Sciences degree program. Over the past 7 years, 41 participants including 27 PharmD students have participated in the program, which is primarily designed to encourage students to pursue a career in health-related research. This year, the program provided experiences in biomedical laboratory research techniques (cell culture, staining, imaging, western blotting, DNA extraction and PCR) and basic bioinformatics training (computational aspect of drug discovery, protein folding with AI, high-throughput virtual screening, omics data mining) under the guidance of post-doctoral fellows, Dr. Nina Semenova and Dr. Robyn Ayscue, in Dr. Azad's research laboratory.

#### **RESEARCH GRANTS**



Dr. Calvin Lowe, Professor and former Dean of School of Science, received two grants for his fusion research work. He received \$600K from

the U.S. Department of Energy, Fusion Energy Sciences program for the design and construction of a HU located Stellarator and \$1.76 M from Simons Foundation to support hiring of new faculty to work in the HU Stellarator.



HU Police Chief David Glover was awarded \$50,000 from VA's Department of Criminal Justice Services under the ARPA Law

Enforcement grant program . The title of the proposal is, "Hampton University -Safe Streets Initiative and Reducing Violent Crime."

#### **Trivia**

Who was the scientist that filed 1,093 patents alone?

- A. Marie Curie B. Albert Einstein
- C. Isaac Newton D. Thomas Edison

## **HU SEAA DRONE CAMP**



The first HU-Amazon Robotics High School STEM Un-Systems crewed Education (USE) Summer Camp was held July 24-28, 2023 in Olin Hall, Engineering Building. Faculty

and staff from the School of Engineering, Architecture and Aviation (SEAA) - Dr. Joyce Shirazi (Dean), Dr. Demetris Geddis (Assistant Dean), Mr. John Murray Aviation Department), (Chair, Otsebele Nare, Mr. Orestes Gooden, Trey Shannon and Jordan Nobles along with Phoebus High School's Ms. Aubrey Gumbert and 18 high school students built, programmed and flew Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) drones. All students passed their Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) - The Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST) and received a certificate authorizing them to operate drones outdoors in accordance with FAA guidelines. Three HU aviation students: Tyrique Moss, Griffin Weathers, and Jonathan Joslin, assisted in the camp by demonstrating and overseeing drone flight operations on HU's campus. Amazon Robotics and the Longbow Group provided the logistics and technical curriculum critical to the success of benchmark community outreach this program.

#### **MEET OUR STAFF**



Kathleen Broughton, Assistant Director, Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP). Ms. Broughton, will work closely with OSP Director to pro-

vide support to faculty and staff through all phases of the preaward grant proposal process.



Belinda Denson, Administrative Assistant, Grants Management. Ms. Denson has worked at HU for 4 years in various roles. In this

position, she will provide support to faculty and staff through all phases of the post-award grant proposal process.



Monica Rodriguez, Title III Coordinator, will ensure HU's compliance with Title III as related to Educational regulations

that apply to state and local governments. She will collaborate with management to develop plans and budgets for Title III projects.

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