



CUI Summer Research Institute Newsletter



Wednesday Recap

This Wednesday, the SRI featured a talk from Professor Wright, the dean for the school of business and economics, on business in science. Professor Wright emphasized the importance of getting to the what if instead of stopping at the so what. He had students pick inventions and determine whether it was a so what invention, which had little demand and application, or a what if invention, which was in-demand and usefull. Through the activity, students learned about what makes a product, process, or scientific experiment a what if instead of a so what.



Week Ahead

- Summer Chapel (10:30am-11am) - Tuesday, July 5th
- SRI Weekly Meeting off-campus (10am-12pm), followed by Lunch at the Outback - Wednesday, July 6th
- Nite Hike from Bommer to Crystal Cove (7pm-10pm) - Wednesday, July 6th
- Engineering & Kinesiology Weekly Meeting (1pm-2pm) - Thursday, July 7th
- Lifestyle and Parkinson's Disease Data Collection (7am-2pm) - Friday, July 8th
- Lab Work in Founders Hall (8am-2pm) - Friday, July 8th

Faculty Notes

Professor Schulz

Professor Schulz said that the one takeaway he had was that "people should have three takeaways." He added that "my three takeaways are that everyone should ask so what, what if, and look into the intersections at which disciplines meet. Today the intersection happened through the business department and dean who talked about the ways products can be invented, reinvented, and circulated. In this way, he took students out of the silo of their discipline and encouraged them to look at their work through a different perspective/discipline."

Professor Schulz said Wednesday's talk made student better scientists because "Dr. Wright's talk looked at the *topoi* (common places) at which different disciplines can intersect. As a society, we too often try to find out what differentiates us instead of looking for these commonplaces."



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Quote of The Week

Challenge yourself in everything you do going forward, progressing from the shackles of “so what” to the liberation of “what if”!

~Dr. Wright



Student Spotlight

Meet Alana Hurley! Alana is an upcoming senior at Concordia majoring in biology with a fitness programming minor. She is also on the cross country and track team. Outside of the SRI, Alana loves going to the beach with friends, going to concerts and running.

Research Highlight

Alana’s summer research involves working with her research group to observe how wildfires affect the cell microbiome. The plan is to use burn boxes, set them on fire, and see how that changes the type of microbes living in the soil. She is also working on her senior thesis which involves looking at a gene present in both yeast and humans. The idea is to knock out the yeast gene and transform the yeast gene with the mammalian gene and seeing if the yeast would be able to resume normal cellular activity.

