



The EL Alliance Newsletter – Volume 3, No. 1

Welcome to the Empowering Leadership: Computing Scholars of Tomorrow Alliance (ELA)! The ELA Newsletter is designed to provide ELA participants, partners, and colleagues with information about the ELA; opportunities for students, mentors, and partners; and news about the computing community. More comprehensive information can be found at the EL Alliance Website, <http://www.empoweringleadership.org>.

Table of Contents

Letter from Richard Tapia

News:

- Send Us Your Biography for the Inspiring Leaders Biography Project
- Revamped Mentoring Program Kickoff
- Intro to New ELA program manager – Alice Fisher
- REU Opportunities – Summer Vacation Plans

Biography

- Inspiring Leader – Juan Gilbert
-

Letter: A Letter from Richard A. Tapia

Dear Empowering Leadership Alliance Community,
Welcome back from summer break. The start of a new academic year is a good time to reflect upon what we've accomplished and to share future plans. We've seen a lot of activity throughout the ELA, including the participation of students, faculty, representatives from industry, and others in person and online, through virtual communities, at national conferences, and in local and regional activities. Our membership continues to increase, and the leadership of the ELA is working hard to offer important opportunities and resources for our members.

Most importantly, mark your calendars! The **2011 Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference** is planned for April 3-5, 2011 at the Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco, California. We are determined to make this the best Tapia conference ever, taking full advantage of Bay area resources. Take a look at the conference website, <http://tapiaconference.org/2011/>, join the conference Facebook group (there's a link at the conference website), plan to submit a proposal for a poster, and check back often for scholarship information! In addition to the main conference, ELA will host a national meeting on Sunday, April 2, about which we will have information shortly. We want to see you in beautiful San Francisco!

Many of our local, regional, and national (online) activities this fall and winter will be developed with the exciting idea that we will be able to gather the ELA community together in the spring. In this newsletter, you can read of newly organized mentoring programs, a new Inspiring Leaders Biography project, REU opportunities, and a spotlight on an inspiring leader in our community. As always, I enjoy hearing from you. Have a great academic year.

Sincerely,
Richard A. Tapia
Principal Investigator, EL Alliance

News: Send Us Your Biography for the Inspiring Leaders Biography Project

The ELA announces a new project called The Inspiring Leaders Biography Project. The ELA community is made up of individuals that are caring and interesting in unique ways. Our goal is to help all of us get to know one other. That includes YOU! Regardless of what stage of your career that you are in, undergraduate through senior professional, we want to hear from you. All we need is a photo and a brief biography. If there is a website that already contains this information, just send us the url link. If not, send us the information. Please email your biography to Alice Fishier, new ELA Program Manager at afisher@rice.edu. The biographies will be shared on the ELA website.

News: Revamped Mentoring Program Kickoff

The Empowering Leadership Alliance has launched its Prestigious Awards Mentoring Program (PAMP) that provides mentorship and guidance to graduate students, postdocs, and faculty who are seeking to apply to the following awards programs:

Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship for Minorities, Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, Computing Innovation (CI) Fellowship, Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) Fellowship, IBM PhD Fellowship, Moreau Academic Diversity Postdoctoral Fellowship, Program National Physical Science Consortium Fellowship, NSF Bridge To The Doctorate, NSF Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award, NSF GK-12, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

If you are making plans to apply to any of the above awards, the PAMP can connect you with a mentor that will assist you with your application package. To request a mentor, please contact Juan Gilbert (juan@clemsun.edu) or Phoebe Lenear (lenear3@illinois.edu).

News: Intro to New Program Manager- Alice Fisher

Diversity excites and inspires me. Having straddled two worlds as a Korean-American, I have always been fascinated by the mixing of cultures and the issues of ethnic identity. I was able to explore different cultures after graduating from Rice University by traveling in Africa, Asia, and South America over a period of 2 years.

Another area of interest for me is public education. I have taught mathematics in middle and high school, and have coached and taught high school mathematics teachers for the past 12 years. Because the schools that I have been involved in were Houston public and charter schools (including KIPP Academy), I feel very invested in supporting underrepresented minority students in STEM at the undergraduate and graduate level.

I began as program manager of ELA at the beginning of July 2010. Since I am based in Houston, I have been able to initiate a local chapter of ELA at Rice University. Our ELA Rice program has created a faculty mentoring program, hosted our first monthly meeting, and matched students by course in study groups. You can learn more about our local chapter at ela.rice.edu.

I am very excited to join the ELA national community, and look forward to meeting many of you at the Tapia, Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference in early April.

News: REU Opportunities – Summer Vacation Plans

How will you spend your next summer's vacation? Do you want to explore research at a leading university? Or maybe you'd prefer an internship at a high tech corporation? How about working at a government research lab? Even though applications won't be available most likely until early 2011, it's not too early to start looking at available programs that pique your interest and take note of application deadlines. A good starting point is at the **National Science Foundation Computing and Information Science and Engineering Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)**

http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/list_result.cfm?unitid=5049

You'll find REUs available at numerous institutions, including at many EL Alliance partner sites. To see some of the exciting projects that students work on, take a look at the ELA partner UC-Berkeley SUPERB program at <http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/Programs/ugrad/superb/Meetsuperb/>

Biography: Inspiring Leader – Juan Gilbert



Dr. Juan E. Gilbert is a Professor and Chair of the Human-Centered Computing Division in the School of Computing at Clemson University where he leads the Interaction and Information Lab. Dr. Gilbert has research projects in spoken language systems, advanced learning technologies, usability and accessibility, Ethnocomputing(Culturally Relevant Computing) and databases/data mining. He has published more than 100 articles, given more than 150 talks and obtained more than \$13 million dollars in research funding. He was recently named one of the 50 most important African-Americans in Technology. He was also named a Speech Technology Luminary by Speech Technology Magazine and a national role model by Minority Access Inc.

Dr. Gilbert is also a National Associate of the National Research Council of the National Academies, an ACM Distinguished Speaker and a Senior Member of the IEEE Computer Society. Recently, Dr. Gilbert was named a Master of Innovation by Black Enterprise Magazine, a Modern-Day Technology Leader by the Black Engineer of the Year Award Conference, the Pioneer of the Year by the National Society of Black Engineers and he received the Black Data Processing Association (BDPA) Epsilon Award for Outstanding Technical Contribution. In 2002, Dr. Gilbert was named one of the nation's top African-

American Scholars by Diverse Issues in Higher Education. Dr. Gilbert recently testified before the Congress on the Bipartisan Electronic Voting Reform Act of 2008 for his innovative work in electronic voting. In 2006, Dr. Gilbert was honored with a mural painting in New York City by City Year New York, a non-profit organization that unites a diverse group of 17 to 24 year-old young people for a year of full-time, rigorous community service, leadership development, and civic engagement.

Read an interesting article about Dr. Gilbert's early life at

http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_magazine/previous_issues/articles/2002_02_15/noDOI.9358385773676535184