2009 Graduate Mentor Recruitment

Promoting Undergraduate Research in ECE (PURE) is a student initiative that facilitates undergraduate research for underclassmen in the ECE department. You may have heard about it from peers who are already involved. We are currently looking for motivated ECE graduate student mentors to join our fall 2009 PURE Research program! This is a program that benefits all participants, undergraduates and graduates in many different ways. If gaining unparalleled mentoring experience while getting help on your research project sounds interesting to you, we invite you to the PURE Graduate Mentor Info Session on Tuesday April 21, 5-6pm, in Room 165 Everitt Lab. Pizza will be served shortly after the event.

Please RSVP to https://illinois.edu/formBuilder/OrganizationSecure?id=6965923 if you are planning to attend the info session.

If you cannot attend the session, but are interested in the program, please leave your information at https://illinois.edu/formBuilder/OrganizationSecure?id=6965923

If you have questions, please feel free to email brunet [at] illinois dot edu, and/or check https://wiki.engr.uiuc.edu/display/PURE/

We look forward to hearing from you.

PURE Research

The program pairs up 1-2 undergraduate students with a graduate student mentor. They will together decide on a project which the undergrads will be working on throughout the semester. All undergraduate mentees will write a 1- to 2-page summary and give a presentation at the end of each semester on what they have done/learned.

Role as a Mentor and Time Commitment

The passion of our graduate mentors is one of the most important factors that have lead to PURE's success. The mentors will help undergraduate define a problem, find resources, and most importantly, share their own learning experience and provide guidance.

In more specific terms, graduate mentors are expected to have one half-hour meeting per week with their mentees, and occasionally attend some of the events that PURE committee plans throughout the semester. Overall, the total weekly time commitment for mentors will be around 1 ~ 2 hours.

What Have We Done?

PURE launched the PURE Pilot Program in spring 2008. So far the program has involved about 30 graduate students and over 70 undergraduate students.

You can find more about past events, and current mentor profiles on our website at https://wiki.engr.uiuc.edu/display/PURE/

What are the Benefits?

There are many benefits for participating in the PURE Research Program as a graduate mentors, such as:

- Unique teaching experience: Different from being a TA, PURE mentors will have chance to build a close personal connection with their mentees, as well as have more freedom in their teaching style.
- Access to help in research: many of our past mentees have proven to be great assistants for their graduate mentors. Some mentees continued to work with their mentors throughout the summer, even after the program had ended.
- Course credits: graduate student participation in PURE can be recognized by earning one hour of ECE597 individual study credit per semester.
- Feedback from past grad mentors (a few): Given the selection process (grad students choose the students they want to work with based on their applications), graduate students have the opportunity to work with highly motivated students. PURE is a well-organized semester-or-longer program; the program helps think how to research better, while mentoring about research.