2021 Agenda Science and Engineering Division and National Association of Blind Students of the National Federation of the Blind Virtual STEM Meeting

February 28, 2021

9:00 P.M. EST - Welcome: Trisha Kulkarni, President, National Association of Blind Students of The National Federation of The Blind

9:02 P.M. EST - Welcome: John Miller, President, Science and Engineering Division of the National Federation of The Blind

9:05 P.M. - **Methods for The Blind to Electronically Read and Write Mathematics from Primary School Through College - Neil Soiffer**

9:25 P.M. - **Where Humanities, Social Science, And Engineering Collide: Perspectives on The Value of Interdisciplinary Study and Research - Gene Kim**

9:35 P.M. - **Trial and Error: Towards Faster Methods of Learning STEM Skills as a Blind Student** - N**ewton Nguyen**

9:45 P.M. - **Muscle Memory and The Microbiology Lab: how being totally blind did not hinder me from learning the various techniques and aseptic procedures in what has.**

**always been portrayed as a very visual discipline. - Emily Schlenker.**

9:55 P.M. - Wrap-up John Miller

10:00 P.M. - Adjourn.

The speakers, topics, and talk descriptions are:

**Speaker: Neil Soiffer**

**Title: Methods for The Blind to Electronically Read and Write Mathematics from Primary School**

**Through College**

**Description: There has been great progress in reading and writing accessible mathematics in the last decade, and this talk will cover the state of the art.**

**Speaker: Gene Kim**

**Title: Where Humanities, Social Science, And Engineering Collide: Perspectives on The Value of Interdisciplinary Study and Research**

**Description: Gene will share his experiences as an interdisciplinary Symbolic Systems student and an undergraduate researcher at Stanford Shape Lab, which**

**has undertaken many blindness accessibility research projects in the Human Computer/Machine Interaction space. He will also share resources and tools he**

**has found useful in studying Computer Science, Mathematics, and Engineering.**

**Speaker: Newton Nguyen**

**Title: Trial and Error: Towards Faster Methods of Learning STEM Skills as a Blind Student**

**Description: The growing inter-disciplinary nature of science education and practice, alongside rapid technological advances, has forced science students and professionals to learn new skills at an increasingly  rapid rate. However, a lack of centralized resources, coupled with a longer training period to learn new technical skills, threatens to leave blind students behind. In this talk, I will briefly share some new initiatives and possible pathways to ease the acquisition.**

**of technical skills, in addition to sharing my own personal experiences as a student and researcher.**

**Speaker: Emily Schlenker**

**Title: Muscle Memory and The Microbiology Lab: how being totally blind did not hinder me from learning the various techniques and aseptic procedures in what has**

**always been portrayed as a very visual discipline.**

**Description: As a biology major, one of the requirements was to complete a general microbiology lab. I was able to do this with a few basic modifications and a whole.**

**lot of practicing and though I spent a lot of time feeling awkward and uncomfortable, what people do not tell you is that almost all students who are faced.**

**with these new techniques feel the same way and are experiencing difficulties.**

If you have any questions, please contact Louis Maher (713-444-7838, [ljmaher03@outlook.com](mailto:ljmaher03@outlook.com)).

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Join the standard National Association of Blind Students Zoom Conference Line:

February 28, 2021, 9 PM EST

https://zoom.us/j/4678833687#success

Meeting ID: 467 883 3687

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+16468769923,,4678833687#