



The MUST Report

MUST

MOTIVATING UNDERGRADUATES IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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January - February 2013

This edition of the MUST Report includes MUST Scholars' highlights, professional development information, internship application tips, and upcoming conferences. Have something to say? Please email the editor at vicmar@hispanicfud.org

Top 5 Internship Application Tips

The NASA Internship placement season is well underway. We hope that you have already submitted your application. If you haven't, remember that the earlier you apply the more likely you are to get your first choices. This year we asked NASA officials for their top 5 tips to complete a successful application and make a good first impression. Below is what they have to say:

RESPECT and treat others with kindness and courtesy. Observe good phone and e-mail etiquette at all times. Remember you are always being evaluated.

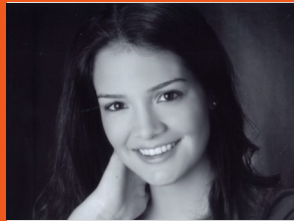
READ instructions carefully and follow them. It will save you time, unnecessary emails and possibly embarrassment!

IMPRESS your mentors by reading their publications or researching projects you apply to before your interviews. Remember, "chance favors the prepared mind."(Louis Pasteur)

BE PROACTIVE Don't wait until a situation becomes an issue to seek help. Reach out to us whenever you have a question or concern. We are here to help. When in doubt, ask.

SEND a thank you note after interviews and after an internship offer is extended.

MUST Scholar Spotlight: Carolina Ragolta



In November, I had the opportunity to present my summer research from Ames Research Center at the Materials Research Society Fall Meeting in Boston. My mentor had me submit an abstract during the summer, and when it was accepted in the fall we worked together to prepare the conference paper and my fifteen-minute presentation. The MUST Travel Award provided me with the funding for the registration fee, and the application process was simple and easy.

This was my first experience presenting at a scientific conference. It was exciting to present before an international audience of scientists and scholars. I was the first person in my presentation group to present, and I was also the only undergraduate and the only woman presenting. The audience asked challenging questions, and I enjoyed learning about similar research happening around the world and asking my own tough questions.

Aside from my presentation, I networked with undergraduates as well as experienced researchers. I was able to circulate my resume to potential employers and make professional contacts. The conference also gave me a deeper appreciation for STEM, and I enjoyed the opportunity to engage in scientific dialogue and learn something new with every conversation. One unexpected outcome of the conference was that my presentation was highlighted in my school's newspaper, and *Business Insider* picked up the article. I highly encourage all MUST Scholars to seek out conferences to practice presentation and networking skills. Ask your mentors and professors to suggest conferences for you, and apply for the MUST Travel Award.



64th International Astronautical Congress

The 64th International Astronautical Congress will be held Sept. 23-27, 2013, in Beijing, China. NASA's participation in this event is an ongoing effort to continue to connect NASA with the international astronautical and space communities.

The IAC has posted a "Call for Abstracts," with a submission deadline of Feb. 21, 2013. NASA plans to also announce a "Call for Abstracts" inviting graduate students to submit abstracts (of no more than 400 words) to participate in the 64th International Astronautical Congress. Abstracts must be submitted to NASA and to the IAF.

Please visit the International Astronautical Congress website for additional information: <http://www.iac2013.org/>

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Upcoming Conferences

National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Annual Convention
March 27 - 31, 2013 - Indianapolis, Indiana
<http://www.nsbe.org/Convention/Convention/Overview.aspx>

The 44th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference
March 18-22, 2013 - Woodlands, Texas
<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2013/>

The Innovative STEM Conference (ISC)
March 7-10, 2013 - Baltimore, Maryland
http://www.istemfoundation.org/isc2012/about_isc.html

2013 ASEE Engineering Research Council (ERC) Annual Conference
March 3 - 5, 2013 - Washington DC
<http://www.asee.org/conferences-and-events/conferences/erc/2013>

11th Annual Conference on Systems Engineering Research
March 19-22, 2013 - Atlanta, Georgia
<http://cser13.gatech.edu/>

Congratulations to the new NASA Ambassadors

The MUST team congratulates all current MUST Scholars selected to be NASA Ambassadors.

Karina Alventosa
Brown University

Umar Faraz
University of North Carolina, Charlotte

Alyssa Barlis
Williams College

David Jones
University of California, Merced

Aida Cortés Peña
Georgia Institute of Technology

Carolina Ragolta
Harvard University

Samantha Rorick
University of California, Riverside

To learn more about the NASA Ambassadors program visit the following link:
<https://intern.nasa.gov/intern>