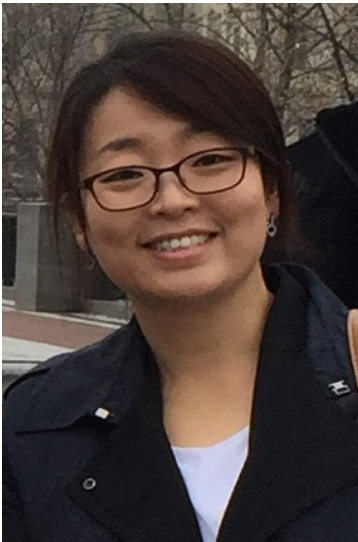


**NSF EPSCoR**

**DR. JAEYUN MOON FEEDS HER PASSION THROUGH THE NEXUS PROJECT**



Solar energy is Dr. Jaeyun Moon’s passion. A native of Korea, Moon joined the UNLV faculty and subsequently the Nexus project, in the fall of 2014 to put her passion and knowledge to great use. Moon earned her Bachelors of Science as well as her Master of Science degrees in materials and metallurgical engineering from Hanyang University in South Korea. After eight years of working for a tech company where she developed semiconductor devices, she moved to the United States where she earned her Ph.D. in materials science and engineering from the University of California, San Diego.

Moving to Nevada was a natural step because it provides the perfect environment for investigating solar energy. Moon has collaborated with Dr. Boehm and Dr. Batista on the project thus far and enjoys the support and research atmosphere at UNLV.

As part of the Nexus team she is focused on exploring new technologies that could minimize water use at solar facilities. This work falls right in line with her research studies which included investigating solar energy and developing materials that can withstand high temperatures for solar energy receivers.

This is not Moon’s first experience working on an NSF funded project. In 2014 she received a grant to study water and purifying water for solar energy and to develop coating materials for solar receivers.

**NASA EPSCoR**

**NASA INTERNS GAIN INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE AND PREPARATION FOR POST-COLLEGE CAREER**



It’s no secret that internships give students a competitive edge once they are ready to look for a job after college. But the reality is that the process of finding an internship can be overwhelming and intimidating. There are misconceptions about the internship process: how much experience do you need? Are all internships unpaid? How do I get started? With that in mind, David Frank, a UNR computer science student who took advantage of a NASA internship opportunity during the summer of 2014, weighs in with his thoughts based on his experience.

Q: What was the most important outcome from your internship?

A: “I learned how to work in a team. Before the internship, I had only worked by myself or in very small groups. At first it just seemed like a nuisance, but once I got used to teamwork, the benefits become apparent.”

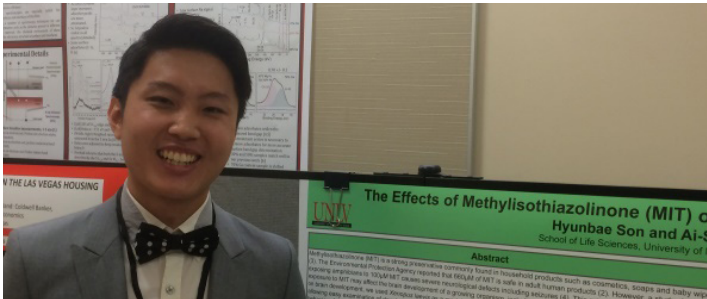
Q: What advice would you offer to other students who might be unsure if an internship will truly help them reach their academic and career goals?

A: “An internship will help you better define your career goals. You’ll like some parts of the internship, but like any job, there are parts you won’t enjoy. Based on those experiences, you can make sure that the career you choose includes more of the things that you do like.”

## NSF EPSCoR

### NEVADA EPSCoR SOLAR NEXUS UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (UROP) STUDENTS WIN AWARDS

Four UNLV undergraduate students recently received recognition and an award for their Solar Nexus research projects at the 2015 OUR-UNLV Fall Undergraduate Research Showcase. The inaugural event, held during Research Week at UNLV, provided undergraduate students with the opportunity to share their scholarly and creative work with the campus and the community.



**Hyun Philip Son**

**1st Place in Second Science and Engineering Session**  
Mentor: Ai-Sun (Kelly) Tseng, Ph.D.

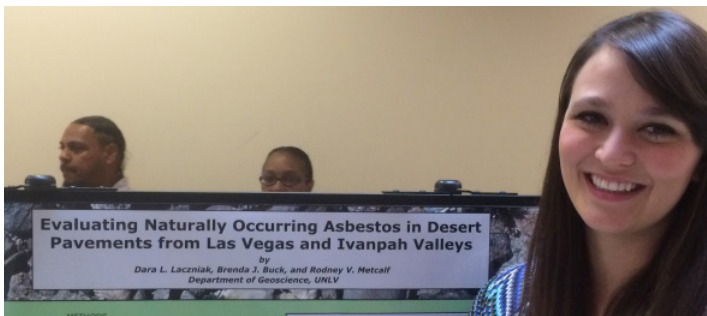
Poster Title: The Effects of MIT Exposure on Neural Behavior in Frogs



**Kayvon Etebar**

**1st Place in First Science and Engineering Session**  
Mentor: Nora B. Cabero, Ph.D.

Poster Title: Generation of a high affinity amyloid beta binding peptide (AβBP) by in vitro protein evolution (IVE) and phage display



**Dara Lacznik**

**1st Place in First Science and Engineering Session**  
Mentor: Brenda Buck, Ph.D.

Poster Title: Evaluating Naturally Occurring Asbestos in Desert Pavements from Las Vegas and Ivanpah Valleys



**Shantelle Delos Santos**

**3rd Place in First Science and Engineering Session**  
Mentor: Ai-Sun (Kelly) Tseng, Ph.D.

Poster Title: Investigating the Developmental Toxicity of MIT Exposure

## NSF EPSCoR

### TEACHERS GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE THROUGH THE NERDS PROGRAM

The Nevada Educators Really Doing Solar program, or NERDS, is a year-long program at the Raggio Research Center, and part of the Nexus project. This workforce development activity is led by Dr. Jacquie Ewing-Taylor and Kelly Cannon. The NERDS program helps teachers develop skills in teaching about science and solar energy through the process of inquiry and documenting the research process.

This past summer, teachers learned about solar energy through exploring a solar-powered car, investigating wind energy and touring a "net zero" home. The hands-on program allowed participants to learn about materials and instruments and how to implement what they learned in the classroom.



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