



## **2008 Chicago Area Undergraduate Research Symposium**

**Hermann Union Building, Illinois Institute of Technology  
April 26, 2008**

CAURS was originally established by Chandler Robinson, President and Founder of the American Undergraduate Research Society, while studying as an undergraduate at Northwestern University. His hope was to create an environment in which undergraduates could share their research ideas and accomplishments with others in a regional interdisciplinary symposium. CAURS is now an annual event held each spring that allows undergraduates from 6 leading Chicago area universities - University of Chicago, Loyola University, Northwestern University, DePaul University, Illinois Institute of Technology, and the University of Illinois at Chicago - to present their research results in a professional setting.

*"This is one of the most impressive research symposiums that I've had the pleasure to attend, and I hear it's all student run--AMAZING!" - Ben Davis, Ph.D., Northwestern University*

Undergraduates in all fields, from the sciences to the humanities, participate in this event. At each symposium, the best student presentations are awarded either scholarships or travel grants to national and international meetings of professional societies. Previous participants of CAURS have gone on to win prestigious awards such as Goldwater, Gates, Fulbright, and Marshall fellowships. In addition, those faculty members of the participating universities whose contributions best encourage and support undergraduate research are recognized.

This year's symposium features an opening address by Carlo Segre, PhD. along with a research presentation by Eric M. Brey, PhD., both members of the faculty at IIT. Carlo Segre is the Associate Dean for the IIT Graduate College and a Professor of Physics focusing his research on the structure and electronic properties of complex materials including superconducting, magnetic and catalytic materials. Eric Brey serves as assistant dean of the IIT Office of Undergraduate Research and assistant professor of biomedical engineering. His research interests include neovascularization, tissue engineering, cell-matrix interactions, and vascular imaging.

The keynote address will be given by Chef Ben Roche. Chef Roche is the pastry chef for Moto Restaurant in Chicago and the Director of Research and Development for Cantu Designs. Twenty-three-year-old Roche works alongside Postmodern culinary star Chef Homaro Cantu to employ technology such as lasers, liquid nitrogen, and alginate powders to construct a new dessert movement in American cuisine. Roche also served as Sous Chef under Chef Cantu during his victorious debut on Iron Chef America!

Year after year, CAURS progresses in size and quality as more become aware of this great opportunity. It is the hope of all those involved with CAURS that a greater exposure will help stimulate greater interest in independent learning and discovery at the undergraduate level which goes beyond the typical classroom environment.

Sponsored by the University of Chicago, Loyola University, Northwestern University, DePaul University, Illinois Institute of Technology, the University of Illinois at Chicago, Abbott Laboratories, Tau Beta Pi IIT Honors Engineering Society, Sigma Xi IIT Scientific Research Society, the Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center, and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

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