Schlumberger Corp. promotes student research

August 07, 2014 8:45 AM
Kirby Messinger kmessing@tulane.edu

Ben Rosenthal works in the materials science lab of professor Doug Chrisey. Rosenthal was chosen as one of five Schlumberger Scholars for the 2014-2015 academic year. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

When Ben Rosenthal, a senior engineering physics major at Tulane University, got the opportunity to work in the lab of professor Doug Chrisey, he was excited about the incredible opportunity. Now his research contributions have earned him the title of Schlumberger Scholar.

Schlumberger, the world’s leading supplier of technology, integrated project management and information solutions to customers working in the oil and gas industry worldwide, has donated $25,000 to support undergraduate and graduate students at the Tulane School of Science and Engineering.

"I’m very excited to be a Schlumberger Scholar. Schlumberger is involved in every area of energy production, and that really fits in line what I want to do." -- Ben Rosenthal
In addition to Rosenthal, graduate students Michael Hopkins, Alex Breaux and “George” Ezeh as well as undergraduate student Laurent DelaFontaine were named Schlumberger Scholars. The scholars receive a stipend and reimbursement for conference travel.

Rosenthal's project involves alternative energy production, specifically the use of a hydrogen pump that draws power from a difference in temperature on different sides of the device. Rosenthal grows nanoparticles for the pump and processes them through the use of high-technology equipment including a scanning electron microscope and a specialized printer that uses nanoparticle ink.

“I enjoy what I do in part because of the amazing equipment I get to work with, and the science is so interesting,” says Rosenthal. “I really feel like I’m contributing to the team. Dr. Chrisey brings out the best in us.” Chrisey is a professor in the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics and holds the Jung Chair of Materials Engineering.

The experience in Chrisey's lab has encouraged Rosenthal to pursue a career in materials science and build on what he is learning. He feels like a career path in energy storage and production has big potential for the future.

Rosenthal plans to attend the Materials Research Society spring conference with his Schlumberger funds and learn more about what is happening across the country in the field of materials science.

Kirby Messinger is a communication/marketing officer in the Office of Development Communications.