MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
6.UAR SEMINAR IN UNDERGRADUATE ADVANCED RESEARCH

ASSIGNED: SEP 7th, 2017
DUE: SEP 21, 2017 4:00 PM

6.UAR Homework #1: Student Expectation Agreement

You must schedule a meeting with your research supervisor ASAP and answer the following questions based on your discussion. This is the professor or head research scientist of your lab with whom you completed your SuperUROP application. If you have another direct day-to-day supervisor such as a graduate student or post-doc mentoring you, it is important that they also attend this meeting.

It is important that you schedule your meeting soon so you are able to submit this assignment by THURSDAY SEP 21st, 2017. If you have trouble contacting your research supervisor or coordinating a time to meet by next week then - please reach out to your TA.

Homework #1: One of your major deliverables is to keep a weekly online lab notebook to track your research progress. Create a Google Doc and share it with your research advisor and TA. Make sure it’s shared permissions allow your TA and advisor to view. If you cannot use Google Docs, please discuss with your TA. Submit the link to your online lab notebook through Stellar for this assignment.

For the first research entry in your online lab notebook: answer the following questions (1-2 paragraphs each). Then submit a link to this notebook via Stellar in response to HW1.

1. What are two skills you want to gain with this SuperUROP? Be sure to share these with your research advisor. Example: Proficiency in optoelectronics, experience in mechanical design and machining.

2. What are two concrete goals you have for yourself for this year? Be sure to share these with your research advisor. Example: build a working prototype of X, write a draft paper for submission to a design conference.

3. What are your advisor’s expectations for you for this semester? Do these seem manageable?
4. Think about your expected research schedule and how you will manage both classes and research. Research isn’t like problem sets and class assignments. It takes large blocks of time and cannot be rushed. You are strongly encouraged to set apart two or three blocks of time in your weekly calendar that add up to 10 hrs. Students in the past who “would work two hours every day” or “whenever they had time” quickly realized by October that it was a failing strategy. **Discuss your research schedule with your advisor and write your agreed weekly schedule here.** It can be subject to change but it’s important that you make your research a priority this semester - even if it means dropping another commitment. Ex: Wed/Fri 1-6 pm.

5. Speak with your research advisor on their **preferred form of weekly communication and how often you will be meeting with them.** Ex: weekly emails with updates on your research progress, or sharing the entry from your online lab notebook.

6. Write out your 30-second “elevator pitch” of your project to two audiences (2 versions): Venture Capitalist; Funding Agency. (Feel free to “define” what type of VC or FA these are.)

As a reminder - starting next week you will be expected to complete an entry every week in your online lab notebook containing 1-2 paragraphs of description and one figure. This will be in addition to the other homework and writing assignments throughout the term.