

SPS Summer 2010

Alex Tuna, Duke/Penn

Mather Intern

Scientists and Engineers for America
&
Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL 14)

Quick Background

Mather Internship

- Summer at CERN, semester of science policy
 - Science without policy = Swimming without getting wet
- Enter the Mather Internship
 - Dr. John Mather, NASA physicist
 - Nobel prize for COBE, CMB
 - Spend a summer in DC



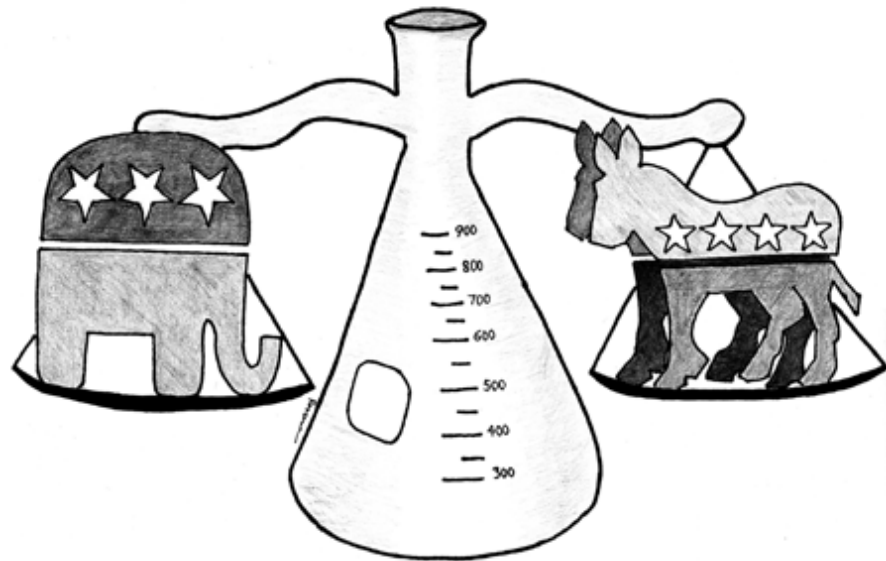
Part 1



Scientists and Engineers for America
(SEA)

SEA – Nonpartisan, nonprofit

- Mission: To promote evidence-based decision making in at all levels of our government by
 - raising the level of debate on science policy during elections
 - encouraging people with scientific and engineering training to run for office
 - facilitating the participation of scientists and engineers in politics and civic life
 - educating the public about their elected officials' positions of various science policies
- Virtual summer intern?
 - 10 hr/week
 - Weekly assignments
 - Not Alex



SEA – DC Beat Reporter

- New position tailored to full-time, in-house intern
- Attend and write about hot topic events on/around the Hill



Center for American Progress



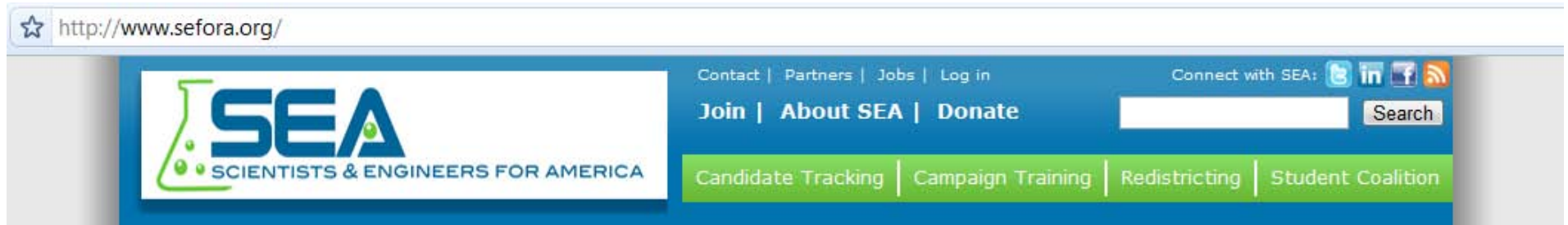
SEA – DC Beat Reporter



- By the numbers
 - 6 weeks
 - 20 events
 - 13 write-ups



SEA – DC Beat Reporter



Science Policy News for August 2, 2010

Join SEA to receive daily/weekly news alerts

Accuracy a Casualty as Job Arguments Dominate Energy Debate on Hill



Greenwire — Oil drilling regulation could kill industry jobs while lack of climate policies can threaten green job existence and creation, respective advocates say.

Rate Your Interest:



Tags: drilling, energy, job, renewable

ShareThis | Discuss

Advocates press Congress on renewable energy standard



Miami Herald — "A strong RES (Renewable Energy Standard) will give certainty to clean energy companies that are looking to invest billions of dollars in [...] renewable energy components."

Rate Your Interest:



Tags: congress, energy, RES

ShareThis | Discuss

Mayors of Major U.S. Cities Want to Force Hybrid Taxi Use



DailyTech — In major cities across the country, mayors and local governments see hybrid taxis as a way to cut pollution and fuel use.

Rate Your Interest:



Tags: hybrid, mayor, taxi

ShareThis | Discuss

www.sefora.org



Part 2

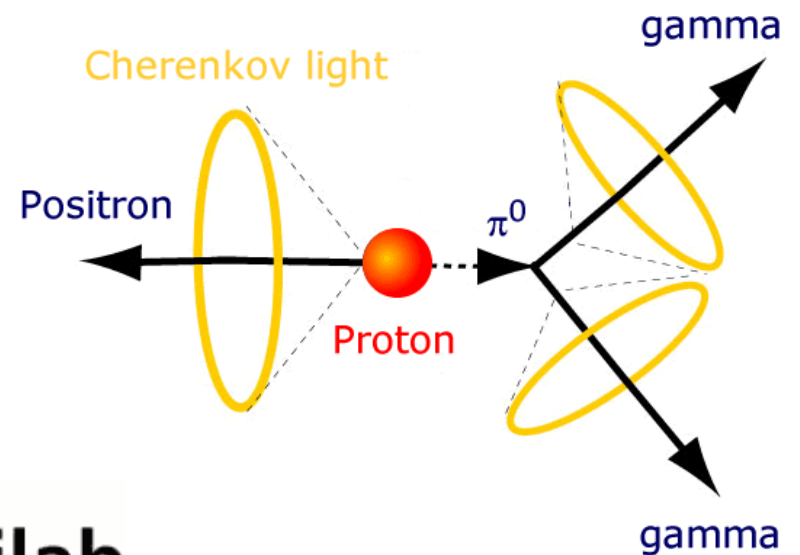


Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL 14)

Rep. Bill Foster

- Why Bill Foster?
 - Physicist!
 - Educated at UW-Madison (BS) and Harvard (PhD)
 - Worked at Fermilab for 22 years
 - CDF detector

- Discovery of the top quark



Life as an intern in Foster's office

- Extracurricular activities
 - Attending interesting hearings and briefings
 - Chat with, observe full-time staffers
 - Intern lecture series ☹️



Conclusions

- Experience science policy from two very different perspectives
- SEA (outsider): votes, press releases
 - Global perspective
- Rep. BF (insider): constituents, party obligations
 - Local perspective

Acknowledgments

- Everyone at SPS, ACP, AIP, APS, ZZTOP, etc.
- Everyone at SEA
 - Brie Welzer, intern supervisor extraordinaire
- Everyone at Bill Foster's office
 - Corey Solow, intern coordinator
 - Full-time staffers, fellow interns
- Everyone at Dr. John Mather