Welcome, All!

It’s been a great summer with a little bit of fishing, a little bit of relaxing and a lot of clearing things off my desk! I hope yours was good, too! The new school year means we have a lot of folks to welcome to the School of Engineering, so please join me in welcoming our freshmen, transfers and new graduate students, faculty, staff and researchers. If you see someone walking around, looking for a classroom or lab, help them out, make them feel at home!

BTW, freshmen, can you read the banner above?

New Faculty

Philip Ernst  Adrianna Gillman  Paul Hand

This year we have three new faculty to welcome and help get settled in. Assistant Professor Philip Ernst has joined STAT and Assistant Professors Adrianna Gillman and Paul Hand are now on the CAAM faculty. Welcome to you all! Read more about Adrianna, Paul and Philip at http://engineering.rice.edu/new_faculty2014/.

New Department Chairs
As of July 1, we have four new department chairs: Michael Deem in BIOE, Edward Knightly in ECE, Marina Vannucci in STAT and Michel Wong is taking the reins in ChBE. You can read more about each of these dedicated professors at [http://engineering.rice.edu/new_chairs/](http://engineering.rice.edu/new_chairs/).

**New Associate Deans**

I am very pleased to announce two new associate deans: Walter Chapman, Associate Dean for Energy and Ann Saterbak, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education. Walter is the William W. Akers Professor in Chemical Engineering who has had a distinguished career in leadership and research in the field of energy. He worked for Shell before joining Rice and that industry experience has given him an insider’s understanding of what is needed to move the sector forward and how Rice can play a leading role in this. Ann is a professor in the practice, bioengineering education who has won national recognition for her innovative and effective classroom approach to design. She has also served on the board of the American Society of Engineering Educators. Both Walter and Ann have been recognized with Brown Teaching Awards from Rice. You can read more about their accomplishments and what they will be doing as associate deans here [http://engineering.rice.edu/associate_deans/](http://engineering.rice.edu/associate_deans/).

**New Features**

We want to make this weekly message more useful to its readers so we’re introducing two new features. In **Events and Opportunities of Note**, I’ll point out some upcoming events of particular interest or importance and funding, research, career or other opportunities. In **Companies on Campus**, I’ll let you know what companies will be visiting Rice during the week in order to recruit for jobs or internships or just meet students to build relationships that might lead to jobs or internships. The Center for Career Development hosts many of these events and any student who wants an internship next summer or job after graduation should really take advantage of these opportunities. Give me some feedback on these features. Let me know if you find them useful. Send email to deng@rice.edu.
Summertime Competitions

Several student teams were in national competitions this summer and brought home prizes! Congratulations to the recent graduates on Team DeXcellence, who took second place at Texas Instruments' Innovation Challenge! They are (L to R) Andrew Shober, Vivas Kumar, Shauyra Agarwal, Sonia Garcia and Allison Garza. The team built an automated system for performing functional dexterity tests on cerebral palsy patients. This is the 4th time in 5 years that Rice has placed in the top 3 at the TI Competition. This is a challenge, seniors: compete in Dallas and win! You can find out more about the competition at http://engineering.rice.edu/TIChallenge.

Two other capstone design teams deserve congratulations for taking home honors in the National Institutes of Health’s DEBUT competition. NutriFlow, which increases the amount of nutrients delivered to preemie babies took third place honors. On that team were (L to R) Denizen Kocak, Nathan Liu, Alexa Juarez, Jane Jarjour and Mika Tabata. The R-ARM, a robotic arm that began as a freshman design project, got an honorable mention. On that team are (L to R) Nimish Mittal, Matthew Nojoomi and Sergio Gonzalez. The fellow in the purple shirt is Dee Faught, the local teen who got the R-ARM. Again, for the past 3 years of this 3-year-old contest, Rice has placed or gotten honorable mentions! Not a bad record and a streak we want to continue! Read more about the projects and the competition at http://engineering.rice.edu/NIH_Awards/.

For the first time, a Rice team competed in the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute’s Seismic Design Competition,
which was held in July in Anchorage, Alaska. Senior Benhang Shi and Xoab Perez ’14, represented the team and their design, which they made with the help of two architecture students, placed 18th out of 32 schools and got 3rd on their presentation. Not bad for the first time at a contest! Other CEE team members were Kayla Opall ’14, senior Mariam Junaid and junior Junqing Zhao. Congratulations to you all and go for the gold in 2015! Read more about it here: http://engineering.rice.edu/seismic_design/.

Events and Opportunities of Note

FAST AND COLD!! School of Engineering Ice Cream Social
Take a few minutes from your work and studies to socialize with your engineering colleagues on Wednesday from 3 to 4:30pm on the Brockman Hall portico. This year I promise you the lines will be very fast and the ice cream cold and refreshing! Engineering clubs will be on hand to recruit new members, so freshmen, this is a great opportunity to talk to students with different majors and find out about their club activities. Rice engineering t-shirts will be on sale for $10, so bring some cash and walk away in style! I hope to see all of you there!

Engineering Liftoff!
Freshmen, take note: the Rice Center for Engineering Leadership will be holding its Liftoff on September 6. At this event you’ll learn about the Center’s programs and the School of Engineering. You’ll work on a team to complete a tough but fun engineering challenge and they’ll give you dinner, a t-shirt and if you’re lucky, a door prize! Find out more and register at http://www.rcel.rice.edu/Liftoff2014.

Discover Research
Right after the School of Engineering’s ice cream social on Wednesday afternoon (starts at 3pm—see calendar below for details), there’s another important event going on at 4:30pm, sponsored by the Office of Fellowships and Undergraduate Research. It’s Discover Research and it’s an opportunity for undergraduates who want to get involved in research to make contact with faculty and graduate students who would like to have undergraduates on their research teams. The trouble is, the only engineering department to have signed up for this event is ECE! Any labs in any other engineering departments can sign up until noon tomorrow to participate. Sign up here: http://goo.gl/87drTv. The event is 4:30-6pm in the Grand Hall of the RMC.

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Info Session
It’s time to start preparing applications for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, so if you’re a first year graduate student or a senior planning on going
to grad school, you should attend the information session on Friday at 3pm in Keck 100. To find out more about the event, see http://goo.gl/u54qRE.

**DoE Science Graduate Research Program**
Graduate students doing materials research might want to consider applying for this program which puts you in a DoE lab for 3 to 12 months. It includes a monthly stipend plus travel expenses. If you’re interested, look into it right away because applications are due September 24th. See http://science.energy.gov/wdts/scgsr/ for more information.

**Center for Career Development Career and Internship Expo**
The CCD’s Expo is right around the corner, September 11 from 10am to 3pm in Tudor Fieldhouse. Before then, they’ve got all kinds of companies coming to campus to meet students, so you really should visit their website at http://ccd.rice.edu and bookmark it! They’ll be having sessions to help you prepare your resume and to prepare you to meet company reps in a businesslike manner. Find out more about what they do here: http://engineering.rice.edu/career_expo/.

**Free MATLAB Seminars on Campus**
Mark your calendars for this one: The MATLAB folks will be on campus Wednesday, September 17th, giving a series of seminars for faculty, staff, researchers and students. There will be a different topic for each of three sessions and you can find out what they are and register at http://www.mathworks.com/Rice2014. The 2pm session is a Lego Mindstorms NXT hands-on workshop, which sounds pretty exciting!

**Big Data Competition**
There’s a big data competition in October and the organizers are doing everything they can to get students to participate (like making it free!). The first two rounds are even online, and people from around the world will be competing to progress to the finals in Dallas in November. You can find out more at http://texata.com. The discount code for free student registration is TEXATA14UNI. Let’s see some Owls in the winner’s circle!

**Companies on Campus**
This week there are no companies on campus but they will be here in force after Labor Day (that’s next week!), so get ready:

**Tuesday, Sept. 2** 4pm: Evercore Partners; 6pm: BP; 8pm, Bain & Co.

**Wednesday, Sept. 3** 4pm: Shell; 6pm: BP

**Thursday, Sept. 4** 4pm: Boston Consulting Group; 6pm: Deloitte

**Friday, Sept. 5** 4:30pm: McKinsey & Co.

For more information on these sessions, see http://ccd.rice.edu

Here are the events scheduled for this week:
TUESDAY

BIOE
John A. Rogers, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
“Biodegradable Electronics”
4 p.m. in 280 BRC
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22531

ECE
Bozidar Radunovic
“The Power Challenge in Unlicensed Wide-Area Wireless Networks”
4 p.m. in 1064 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22763

WEDNESDAY

Dean of Engineering
School of Engineering Ice Cream Social
3-4:30 p.m.
Brockman Hall Portico
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22689

Engineers Without Borders
Engineers Without Borders Information Session
7 p.m. in McMurtry Auditorium, Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22755

THURSDAY

ChBE
Jason Papin, University of Virginia
“Network Analysis of Microbial Pathogens”
2:30 p.m. in 212 Herzstein Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22740

CS
Sudip Dosanjh, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
“Big Computing, Dig Data, Big Science”
4 p.m. in 1070 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23066

FRIDAY

CEE
Jan Hewitt, Rice University
“How to Recognize and Avoid Plagiarism”
2 p.m. in 201 Ryon Engineering Bldg
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23119

Here’s a list of upcoming major events:

Tuesday, September 2
Science Café: The Future of Artificial Intelligence  
http://naturalsciences.rice.edu/ShowContent.aspx?id=2508

Thursday, September 4  
Hot Tips on Finding Internships  
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23098

Friday, September 5  
Annual Rice Study Abroad Fair  
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22678

Saturday, September 6  
RCEL Engineering LIFTOFF  
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23097

Monday, September 15  
Rorschach Memorial Lecture: Educating the 21st Century Scientist and Engineer  
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22884

Tuesday, September 16  
Medicine, Energy, Space, Technology (MEST) Conference  
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23101

September 22 – 23  
Rice Global Engineering and Construction – XVII Annual Forum  
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23060

Thursday, September 25  
Joan Brennecke - T.W. Leland Lecture in Chemical Engineering  
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22742

Thursday, October 9  
Michael Franklin – K2I Distinguished Lecture  
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22460

Have a great week and let’s get this semester rolling!  
Ned

Edwin L. Thomas  
William and Stephanie Sick Dean of Engineering