New Rankings Out

US News released its latest undergraduate program rankings last week and Rice University did well, coming in at number 19 (out of 280). *Rice Engineering did a bit better*: ranking 18 out of 157. We had two notable highly ranked departments: **BIOE went from number 8 to number 5** (moving ahead of Stanford at #6; tweet your friends in Palo Alto that they are slipping!) and **ECE moved in to the top 20, at 17**.

A Harvard Dean and an MIT Energy Initiative Director Speaking at Rice!

Two folks from my home state, Cherry Murray, Dean of Harvard’s School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and Bob Armstrong, Director of the MIT Energy Initiative are in town and I want to encourage you to attend *both* of their lectures. Previously Dean Murray was at Bell Labs in its heyday, then at Lawrence Livermore National Labs before going to Harvard in 2009. Cherry is in NAE and NAS and is a professor of Physics at Harvard. She is giving the Rorschach Memorial Lecture, sponsored by the Department of Physics and Astronomy and is going to be speaking on an important topic: “Educating the 21st Century Scientist and Engineer” at 4pm in McMurtry Auditorium, TODAY! I guarantee this is a talk worth listening to, whether you’re a *student* or a *faculty* member!

On Friday, Bob Armstrong, also a member of NAE, former Department Head of Chemical Engineering at MIT and currently Director of MITEI (MIT Energy Initiative) is speaking on, “Linking Science, Innovation and Policy to Transform the World’s Energy Systems: The MIT Energy Initiative.” Bob’s lecture aims to inform the Rice community about the breadth and depth of the largest academic-based energy program in the world with over 70 industrial partners, along with the US and foreign governments. Active research programs include almost everything: Advanced nuclear fission, biofuels, buildings/urban design, conversion, enabling sciences, global climate change, industrial processes, markets and policy, oceans, oil and gas, sequestration, solar, geothermal, storage, systems/power, vehicles/transportation systems! Details at [http://engr.rice.edu/eventslist.aspx?EventRecord=23325](http://engr.rice.edu/eventslist.aspx?EventRecord=23325).

Job Talk!

I trust that many of you made your way to the CCD’s Career and Internship Expo last Thursday. I hear there was a good turnout of companies looking for engineers and of engineers
looking for companies! **Be sure** to do your *follow-up* correspondence with the contacts you made. There will be another Expo in the Spring semester. I want to thank **Nicole Van Den Heuvel**, CCD director and her team for putting on a great event! Keep reading the DM (Dean’s Message) for more info on I-ship opportunities.

**Startups Meet Up with CS**

The computer science department had a great event on Wednesday when reps from eight startups set up tables in Martel Hall and met with students interested in jobs and internships. It appeared that every CS undergrad and quite a lot of grad students turned up for the event and the “pizza for 100” was quickly gone and a second order placed for more! Congratulations to department chair **Vivek Sarkar** and his staff on an excellent, energizing event!

**Engineer in the Spotlight**

If you haven’t seen *Inside Rice University* lately, you may not know that the new host of the monthly video is our own **Gabe Baker**, CEE senior and safety on the football team! Check out the video—he’s a natural! There are a bunch of engineers interviewed during O-Week and the clips on Matriculation/SallyPort Fireworks, Camp Kesem and more are great! Good job, Gabe, on showing that engineers are multi-talented! You can see the video at: [http://news.rice.edu/2014/09/08/inside-rice-university-for-september-2014/](http://news.rice.edu/2014/09/08/inside-rice-university-for-september-2014/)

**BYPTC!**

*Bring Your Parents To Class* on Friday during Rice Families Weekend. Let them know, though, that they’ll be expected to do the reading and there will be a quiz! Seriously, though, as **President Leebron** said, “expect the visits and welcome our guests into your classroom.” And pass on some engineering wisdom, too! BIOE’s **Rebecca Richards-Kortum** and CAAM’s **Steve Cox** will be giving lectures as part of the Families Weekend Lecture Series on Friday. For times and locations and a full schedule of events, see: [www.ruf.rice.edu/~events/famweek/schedule.htm](http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~events/famweek/schedule.htm).
Postponed: BIOE Undergrads Lunch With the Dean

The BIOE Lunch with the Dean session originally scheduled for this Friday has been postponed to Friday, September 26th at noon in Duncan Hall 1049. I’m looking forward to a discussion as lively as the one I had with ECE students last week! Sign up here: https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/z130o4ws17t0bcn/ by Wednesday to attend.

Lunch With the Dean: MECH Undergrads Next Week!

Speaking of lunch, I’ll be meeting (and eating) with MECH undergrads on Thursday, September 25th at noon in Duncan Hall, room 1049. There are a lot of you MECHs out there and undecided students interested in MECH are also invited so you’d better not wait to sign up—space is limited! RSVP here: https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/zk932xs1wjycec/ by Tuesday next week!

Events and Opportunities

NSF, NDSEG Fellowship Workshop Friday

RCEL is sponsoring a workshop Friday, 3-5pm for students writing proposals for the NSF and NDSEG Graduate Fellows Programs. Jan Hewitt, senior lecturer in communications, will be covering all sorts of important topics like review criteria and how to write each section clearly and persuasively. You’ll need to bring a brief summary of the research you propose to do. For more info and to sign up, see http://rce.l.rice.edu/event-1755218.

Workshop on Getting a KPCB Internship (and that’s not a radio station!)

If you’re interested in startups and looking for an internship for next summer, you might think about applying for the Kleiner Perkins Caufield Byers Fellows program. KPCB is the venture capital firm at which John Doerr ’73 ’74 is a partner. They backed some little companies called Google and Amazon, companies you might not have heard of. Now they back unknowns like Spotify and Flipboard. KPCB Fellows work at Silicon Valley startups that have KPCB backing. We want to have a lot more Rice KPCB Fellows this year so we’re having an info session on October 1st at lunchtime (details below). These are highly competitive positions (open to undergraduate and graduate students) with a rigorous application process so we want you to be well prepared. Sign up for the session here: http://goo.gl/kHks5g. Space is limited and lunch will be provided. You can read about our 2014 interns, Kyle Adams and Derek Peirce (Kyle in the black shirt, Derek in the blue shown with some fellow Fellows) here: http://engineering.rice.edu/2014_kpcb_fellows/. Find out more about the program here: http://kpcbfellows.com/.
NASA Robotics Design Competition Deadline Looms!

NASA is calling for participation in its 5th Annual RASC-AL Exploration Robo-Ops, a university rover engineering design competition. Participants in this competition are required to build and test prototype planetary rovers at NASA’s JSC Rock Yard. If you’d like to participate, get a team together and submit a notice of intent by Sept. 19. Project plans are due October 10th. The contest is open to undergraduate and graduate students. For more information, see http://nia-cms.nianet.org/RoboOps/index.aspx.

Undergrad Researchers: Prepare to Present!

Undergraduates doing research in computer science, chemistry, biosciences and electrical and computer engineering are invited to apply to participate in the Gulf Coast Undergraduate Research Symposium Saturday, October 25th. You'll need to give an oral presentation on your research to faculty, researchers and other undergrads from around the Gulf Coast. This will be at the BRC, so let's show everyone how great our undergrad researchers are! You need to apply before October 1. Go to http://gcurs.rice.edu for more information.

Companies on Campus

The beat goes on for engineers! For more information on these sessions, see http://ccd.rice.edu

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GE Wants Rice Interns!

Our buddy and recent MECH graduate, Allison Garza, MECH ’14, is now the campus recruiter for General Electric and she’d like to see a bunch of applicants for their internship positions in her division, GE Health Care. She and another GE recruiter will be on campus today through Wednesday. If you’re interested, send her an email at allison.garza@ge.com. She wanted résumés by today so jump on this! Find out more about GE’s internship program here: http://goo.gl/Y861c.

Here are the events scheduled for this week:

TODAY
Rorschach Memorial Lecture
Cherry Murray, Harvard University
“Educating the 21st Century Scientist and Engineer”
4pm in McMurtry Auditorium, Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22884

CAAM
Steve Cox, Rice University
“Model Reduction of Strong-Weak Neurons”
3pm in 1064 Duncan Hall

STAT
Yves Atchade, University of Michigan Ann Arbor
“Stochastic Proximal Gradient Algorithms”
4pm in 1070 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22597

TUESDAY
Ken Kennedy Institute for Information Technology
Medicine, Energy, Space, Technology (MEST) Conference
1st Floor, BRC
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23101

ECE
Jan Hewitt, Rice Center for Engineering Leadership
Recognize and Avoid Plagiarism Workshop
4pm in 1064 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23264

THURSDAY
Ken Kennedy Institute for Information Technology
MATLAB Seminar
10am in 3092 Duncan Hall

ChBE
Nitash Balsara, University of California, Berkeley
“Nanostructured Block Copolymers for All-Solid Lithium Batteries”
2:30pm in 212 Herzstein Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22746

FRIDAY
CEE
Navid Saleh, University of Texas at Austin
“Environmental Behavior of Nanomaterials: Implications of Material and Environmental Complexities”
2pm in 201 Ryon Lab
http://cee.rice.edu/EventsList.aspx?EventRecord=23258

Dean Of Engineering
Bob Armstrong, MIT
3:30pm in Keck 100
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23325

Rice Center for Engineering Leadership
NSF and NDSEG Fellowship Grant Writing Workshop
3pm in Space Science 337
http://rcel.rice.edu/event-1755218

Here’s a list of upcoming major events.

Dining with the Dean
September 25—MECH Undergraduates http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23173
September 26—BIOE Undergraduates http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23172
October 2—MSNE Undergraduates https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/zf1pqrn1gdzd6n/
October 9—CHBE Undergraduates https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/zzfi26i1frrz7m/
October 24—CS Undergraduates https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/z19jo4rm168s407/
November 12—STAT Undergraduates https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/zy8rk7r0zl0moa/
November 21—CAAM Undergraduates https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/z1ae67gw0kr6eqx/

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

Thursday, October 23
Solar Eclipse Viewing
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23304
Friday, October 24
SCREECH!
Information TBD

Saturday, Oct. 25
REA Football Tailgate
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=18336

Monday, October 27
K2I Distinguished Lecture – “Envisioning Communication and Collaboration”
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22459

Have a great week!
Ned

Edwin L. Thomas
William and Stephanie Sick Dean of Engineering