There are some **great opportunities** coming up in the near future and this message tells about them. Be sure to read the whole thing!

Congratulations to **Allison Garza** and **OwlSquad** members who put on the Entrepreneurship Summit this past weekend. There were 165 Rice students, more than 50 Houston area entrepreneur/mentors and a lot of energy and enthusiasm. The students spent 5 hours developing business plans as teams and had a pitch competition to wrap up. A lot of hard work went into this event and I’m looking forward to seeing what this group will follow up with. We’ll have a link to a story about the event in next week’s message (including the names of the winners. Great work, OwlSquad!

**Professional Master’s Seminar Series This Week!**

We’re launching a special lunchtime seminar series for professional master’s students on Thursday with a guest speaker from Apache Corporation, David French. Come and here what this RICE alum has done in his professional life and have a free lunch! Register by tomorrow at https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/m7p3p7/.

**Faculty: It’s Time for Nominations**

Every spring three prizes are awarded: the Rich Invention Award, the Waters Creativity Award and the Budd Thesis Award. All three of these are decided upon from nominations made by faculty. The Rich ($10,000) goes to one or more Rice students or faculty members who have invented or developed an original idea; the Waters ($1,700) goes to an undergraduate engineer who demonstrates creativity not associated with a specific course; and the Budd Thesis Award ($3,500) is for the best doctoral thesis in engineering. You can find the application forms and more information here:


**National Engineers Week is Just Around the Corner!**

There are several good events scheduled for National Engineers Week, Feb. 17-23 (see the calendar below) and at least one of them requires advance registration: the Global Forum’s annual **Engineering Competition**. Each year the folks at Fluor Corporation share with us the problem they pose to their employees for a competition during National Engineers Week. It always involves some engineering and often some project management, it’s always fun and it’s open to all Rice students. There are cash prizes for the winners plus pizza and t-shirts for everyone who participates. The deadline to register is February 15, so go to http://forum.rice.edu to register and for more information and see http://events.rice.edu for details on the other events.
Inspire Future Engineers and Scientists!
The Science and Engineering Fair of Houston is calling for some volunteers to judge their annual competition for middle and high schoolers. It will be held Friday, March 1 at the convention center downtown. A bachelor’s degree is required of the judges and if you want more information, see http://www.sefhouston.org/judges-agencies.

Statisticians are Cool!
Last Friday, the work of Kathy Ensor, professor of statistics and department chair was featured as the “Number of the Day” in the Wall Street Journal. Kathy calculated the probability of two brothers facing off as coaches in the Super Bowl. Her conclusion: “Given there is one pair of brothers in a pool of 150 potential NFL head coaches, the odds of them facing off in the super bowl are 1 in 11,175.” You can read about how she arrived at this number at http://statistics.rice.edu/Content.aspx?id=2147484059&blogid=1.

Innovate Challenge Winners
We’ve had three Innovate Challenges so far and the competition goes on every Friday at noon (although you want to get there at 11:50 to be able to participate). Here are last week’s winners with their winning entry: Kyle Shepherd, Andrew Stout and Joseph Vento—again, all engineers! And it looks like you want Andrew Stout on your team—he’s been on the winning team two weeks in a row!

Don’t Miss This Guy!
There’s a talk by Ishi Talmon, an expert in CRYOmicroscopy, on Friday and if you’re really into the topic, he’s giving workshops on Monday and Wednesday next week.

See http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19606 for details.
Time to Lunch with the Dean!

Next week is the first session of this semester’s Dining with the Dean series, and it’s ECE undergrads who are invited for Tuesday, February 5 at noon. Register in advance at https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/m7p2k3/. There are more dates listed in the calendar below.

Pack Your Bags, Grad Students!

It’s time again for the RCEL Silicon Valley Trek, or Ignite! Entrepreneurship Conference. RCEL will subsidize up to 10 engineering graduate students to participate over Spring Break (Feb. 27-March 2). The group will visit Facebook, Google, Tesla Motors and Kleiner-Perkins and attend two days of presentations by successful entrepreneurs like Nicholas Seet (http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/x27395.xml) on the UC Davis campus. Apply now at https://oedk.wufoo.com/forms/2013-ignite-entrepreneurship-conference/.

Here are the events scheduled for this week:

TODAY
CEE
Robert Morehouse, ExxonMobil US Chemical & Refining
“Federal Regulatory Development Process”
3:45 p.m. in 201 Ryon Engineering Bldg
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19143

STAT
Kassie Fronczyk, MD Anderson Cancer Center
“A Bayesian Nonparametric Modeling Framework for Developmental Toxicity Studies”
3:45 p.m. in 1070 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19007

TUESDAY
ECE
Alexei Ashikhmin, Bell Labs
“Pilot Contamination Precoding for Large-Scale Antenna Systems (LSAS)”
4 p.m. in 1070 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19610

THURSDAY
DEAN OF ENGINEERING
David French, Apache Corporation
Professional Master’s Seminar Series
11:30 a.m. in 3076 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19487

CHBE
Dr. Jeffrey Gray, Johns Hopkins University
“Design and Prediction of Proteins that Control Biomineralization”
2:30 p.m. in 1064 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19160

FRIDAY
OEDK
Innovate Challenge
Signups start at 11:50am
http://oedk.rice.edu/events?eventId=608019&EventViewMode=EventDetails

DEAN OF ENGINEERING
Yeshayahu “Ishi” Talmon, Technion Russell Berries Nanotechnology Institute
4 p.m. in Duncan Hall, McMurtry Auditorium
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19606

SATURDAY
RCEL Leadership Reaction Course
6am-1pm
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19514

These events are scheduled for the coming weeks:

Monday, February 4 and Wednesday, February 6
Overview of Cryogenic Electron Microscopy: Session 1: Cryo TEM
Session 2: Cryo-SEM
Ishi Talmon
4pm in Del Butcher 180

Dining with the Dean
February 5, 2013 ECE Undergraduates
Register at: https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/m7p2k3/
February 21, 2013 CEE Undergraduates
Register at: https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/m7p2s1/
March 7, 2013 CS Undergraduates
Register at: https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/m7p2a9/
March 22, 2013 MEMS Undergraduates
Register at: https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/q7p1w7/
April 5, 2013 STAT Undergraduates
Register at: https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/q7p1m5/
April 18, 2013 CAAM Undergraduates
Register at: http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19558
National Engineers Week, Feb. 17-23

**Monday, February 18**
Engineer Your Career:
[http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19624](http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19624)

**Tuesday, February 19**
TSPE Outstanding Student Luncheon

**Wednesday, February 20**
Rice Global E&C Forum Engineering Competition

**Wednesday, February 22**
OEDK Innovate National Engineers Week Challenge
[http://oedk.rice.edu/events?eventId=608021&EventViewMode=EventDetails](http://oedk.rice.edu/events?eventId=608021&EventViewMode=EventDetails)

**Wednesday, February 13**
Kennedy Institute for Information Technology Distinguished Lecture Series
“Computing in the 21st Century”
[http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19214](http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19214)

**Thursday, April 11, 2013**
2013 Engineering Design Showcase and Poster Session
[http://oedk.rice.edu/events](http://oedk.rice.edu/events)

Have a great week!
Ned

Edwin L. Thomas
William and Stephanie Sick Dean of Engineering