A New Year In Which to Soar!
Welcome back. I hope everyone had a great break and is ready for a rockin’ sockin’ new year! We’ve got some events coming up for students to get them charged up about design, research and entrepreneurship, but first, I need to recognize some faculty.

Jun Lou, associate professor in MEMS, has won the 2013 Minerals, Metals and Materials Society (TMS) Materials Processing and Manufacturing Division’s Young Leader Professional Development Award. The award is given to one person in each of its five divisions to “enhance the professional development of dynamic young people” in the society. Congratulations, Jun! You can read about this honor and Jun’s work at http://engineering.rice.edu/NewsContent.aspx?id=8589935486.

These CS Guys Deserve a Round of Applause!
Last semester Rice jumped in to the hot arena of MOOCs—Massive Open Online Courses—with a computer science course taught by professors Scott Rixner and Joe Warren and lecturers Stephen Wong and John Greiner. While a lot of other people were talking about doing this, these guys put in a huge amount of effort and made their course a smashing success. How is that success measured? By student comments, for one thing:

“The entire class was a pleasure, a real pleasure. The instructors clearly love their job and are enthusiastic and committed.”

“I felt that the format, pace, and difficulty of this class were perfect. It was pretty obvious that Joe, Scott, John, and Stephen put a tremendous amount of work into pulling this class off and it was very much appreciated. I learned a lot from these guys and am very thankful for their efforts!”

“Excellent dedication from the teachers. The provided material was ideal for introduction in OOP in general. Good Job Professors :)”

I want to publicly thank you all for your efforts and I hope that the lessons you learned will be shared with others who dare to take on this challenge. You can read more about this team’s triumph at http://engr.rice.edu/firstmooc/.

Take the Innovate Challenge and Win Cash Weekly!
Those folks at the OEDK cook up some exciting stuff, and this Friday they’ll hold the first Innovate Weekly Challenge. Each week between noon and 1pm they will offer a puzzle, design challenge or other brain teaser to be solved then and there.
There’s $300 on the line every Friday! All Rice students, faculty and staff are welcome to join in. You can find more information at http://oedk.rice.edu/innovate. Let’s have some engineers walk away with the cash this week!

Students: What Are You Doing This Summer?

Now’s the time to be landing that summer internship or research position. On Thursday there’s a Summer Opportunities Fair in the Grand Hall of the RMC from 5-6:30pm. Several engineering organizations will be there to tell you how to secure a position with one of their programs. Also, new opportunities are being posted all the time. See http://engineering.rice.edu/undergradopps/ or http://engineering.rice.edu/gradopps/.

Entrepreneurs, Unite!

A group of students calling itself OwlSquad is putting together Rice’s first Entrepreneurship Summit for January 26th. This event is for students from across campus, so get your friends from the Business School or Natural Sciences and spend your Saturday learning something new, like how to take calculated risks in your field and how to turn your passion into a successful company. They’ll have mentors, panelists and workshop leaders who will help you learn best practices in entrepreneurship and there will be cash prizes! Register by Wednesday, January 23 and find out more here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dDQxZ3c1X0hDY1p4ajRNZmM4YXR4UXc6MQ#gid=0.

Find Out What’s Happening in Student Research

Also on January 26th is a STEM Undergraduate Research Symposium sponsored by the Center for Excellence and Equity in Education, among others. They’ve got Rafael Verduzco from chemical engineering and Devika Subramanian from computer science and Richard Tapia from computational and applied math lined up to speak. There will also be a poster session and students will give lightning talks on their research, so if you’re an undergraduate interested in doing research, this is a great way to find out how to get involved and what other students are doing on research teams. Find out more and sign up at http://bit.ly/Rice_symposium_jan26_2013.

Professional Master’s Students: This One’s for You!

This semester we’re launching a lunchtime speaker series for professional master’s students in engineering. The first one is Thursday, January 31. See https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/m7p3p7/ for more information and to sign up. Hey! It’s a free lunch! Get to know your fellow students and maybe learn something too!

Does Your Department Produce Outstanding Alumni?

Faculty, the Rice Engineering Alumni group is taking nominations for the Outstanding Engineering Alumni and Outstanding Young Engineering Alumni Awards for 2013. If you look at the wall of past honorees in Duncan Hall, you’ll see that some departments are represented more than others. This is your chance to nominate an alum from your department—and it’s not hard to do! Send a current resume describing the nominee’s accomplishments and that person’s contact information to Robinson
Vu at robinson.vu@bakerbotts.com. You have a little time—the deadline is June 1. At least start thinking about you would like to nominate!

Here are this week’s events:

**TUESDAY**
**BIOE**
Dennis Discher, University of Pennsylvania
4 p.m. in 280 BRC
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19463

**THURSDAY**
**CHBE**
CHBE Seminar Series
TBD
2:30 p.m. in 212 Herzstein Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19158

**Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships**
2013 Undergraduate Summer Research and Opportunities Fair
5 p.m. in RMC Grand Hall
http://ofur.rice.edu/content.aspx?id=2643

**FRIDAY**
**OEDK**
Innovate Challenge
11:50 in the OEDK
http://oedk.rice.edu/events?eventId=607946&EventViewMode=EventDetails

**CEE**
Gregory W. Charaklis, University of North Carolina
“Meeting Future Water Demands: Engineering, Economics and Managing Risk”
3:45pm in 201 Ryon
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19142

These events are scheduled for the coming weeks:

**Saturday, January 26**

Center for Excellence and Equity in Education
2013 Undergraduate STEM Research Symposium
10am-4pm
URL NEEDED for registration

OwlSquad Entrepreneurship Summit
11:15am-7:30pm
Duncan College Commons and Duncan Hall
Wednesday, February 13
Kennedy Institute for Information Technology Distinguished Lecture Series
“Computing in the 21st Century”
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19214

Thursday, April 11, 2013
2013 Engineering Design Showcase and Poster Session
http://oedk.rice.edu/events

Have a great week!
Ned

Edwin L. Thomas
William and Stephanie Sick Dean of Engineering