I hope everyone had a good midterm break because there’s a lot of ground to cover before the end of the semester! Since there was no Dean’s Message last week, this DM is full of news!

**Important Visit This Week**

A while back I mentioned that we will be hosting a group from the National Science Foundation and some partner universities and this is the week for that site visit. These folks will be on campus on Thursday and Friday and I’d like to remind everyone to welcome them to campus, should you encounter them. Also, I want to remind you to be sure and always wear your lab coats and eye protection in your labs! We want to make a good impression on our visitors but more important: we want to be safe!

**Important Mandatory Training!**

Rice has made a commitment to provide a learning and working environment “defined by civility towards and mutual respect for all members of the Rice community.” This means all members of our community are entitled to an environment free of sexual harassment. Moreover, the federal government is requiring a higher standard of sexual harassment training and enforcement of all institutions that receive federal support. So, those of you who have not yet completed the course need to go to [http://professor.rice.edu/professor/EEOAA.asp](http://professor.rice.edu/professor/EEOAA.asp) and do it! In the School of Engineering, so far we have 63% of those required to take the training having done so. I want 100% participation! The deadline for this was September 30 so it needs to be done right away! FYI: all full time, temporary, adjunct, part-time, complementary and all other faculty or staff associated with the school of engineering need to participate!

**Awards and Prizes and Wins, Galore!**

Congratulations to **Matteo Pasquali**, chair of Rice’s Department of Chemistry and a professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering who has won the honorary Paul Schlack Man-Made Fibers Prize along with Marcin Otto, his corporate research partner at Teijin Aramid, for the spinning of carbon nanotube fibers. The annual prize is presented by the European Man-Made Fibers Association. Good work, Matteo!
Congratulations to **Tony Mikos**, the Louis Calder Professor of Bioengineering, who has been elected a fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) in recognition of his professional accomplishments and contributions. In addition to his appointment in BIOE, Tony holds a joint appointment in the Departments of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and Materials Science and NanoEngineering. You can read more about Tony at [http://engineering.rice.edu/mikos_aichefellow/](http://engineering.rice.edu/mikos_aichefellow/).

**And the Winner Is: Rice Gray! Off to Morocco!** Who said Engineers can't travel abroad?!

Each year for the past several, CS students from Rice have competed in the ACM Intercollegiate Programming Contest at the regional level and they've done okay, but this year they really excelled! Rice fielded 5 teams of 3 students each and **Rice Gray**: **Nick Merritt, Jose Vera Garza, Philip Taffet** (in the photo, L to R), took first place and will be traveling to Marrakesh, Morocco for the world finals in May! This competition puts the teams through some tough paces, so the coach, CS lecturer **John Greiner**, and CS senior, **Derek Peirce**, who ran practice sessions every week in preparation, deserve thanks and congratulations, too! You can read more about the competition and who was on the other Rice teams here: [http://engineering.rice.edu/ACM_contest2014](http://engineering.rice.edu/ACM_contest2014).

**E-ship Winners!**

The Houston Technology Center had an Innovation Conference and Showcase last week and three Rice-based startups walked away with prizes. The Goradia Grand Prize—$50K!—went to an outfit called Nanolinea, which came out of the lab of Matteo Pasquali. Congratulations to team members **Flavia Vitale**, a postdoc, and graduate students **Colin Young, Dmitri Tsentalovich** and **Francesca Mirri**. You can read more about their product and the other winning teams at [http://engineering.rice.edu/goradia/](http://engineering.rice.edu/goradia/).

**And Rice Takes... Everything!**
The South Texas Section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AICHE) gave out annual awards at the Southwest Process Technology Conference in Galveston last week and guess which university took all the honors?! Winning the Best Fundamental Paper Award were Professor Emeritus George Hirasaki, Associate Professor Lisa Biswal, Kun Ma ’13 and Rachel Liontas ’12. The Best Applied Paper Award went to Matteo Pasquali and a group of collaborators that included, from Rice, Professor Junichiro Kono of ECE and graduate students Colin Young (applied physics) and Amran Bengio (ChBE). Professor in the Practice Ken Cox won the Distinguished Service Award and Rice alum Trevor Rice (no relation to the HHO) was named Outstanding Young Professional. Congratulations to all y’all! What? Did I just say that?!

American Academy of Arts and Sciences – founded by John Adams, 1780

Last week I had the great pleasure of witnessing one of our faculty, Pol Spanos, the Lewis B. Ryon Professor of Mechanical and Civil Engineering, and Rice Board of Trustees member Judge Lee Rosenthal, being inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences up in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Congratulations to you both! You can read more about this very singular honor here: http://goo.gl/oiC0m4.

Rice Engineering Alumni Tailgate

The REA is inviting all engineering faculty, staff and students and their families to their annual tailgate party next Saturday. The game starts at 11am, so this is breakfast, folks! The Owls will be taking on the University of North Texas and the tailgate begins at 9am. Go to http://goo.gl/F3YvmW to register and find out more about the event. The deadline to register is Wednesday. Owls are 3-3 so far this year. Lots of engineering football players too - including the Owls safety! Tell me his name and win a prize: http://goo.gl/CO5Dj0. The first response wins!
CS-type Companies on Campus this week...
For more information on these sessions, see http://ccd.rice.edu.

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Here are the events scheduled for this week:

**TODAY**

**CAAM**
Kiavash Kianfar, Texas A&M University
“Continuous n-Mixing Set: A Consolidating Cutting Plane Framework”
3:00 p.m. in 1064 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22936

**STAT**
Igor Pruenster, University of Torino
“Models Beyond the Birichlet Process”
4:00 p.m. in 1070 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22602

**TUESDAY**

**Center for Theoretical Biological Physics**
Leonid A. Mirmy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
“A Tug-of-War Between Driver and Passenger Mutations in Cancer”
12:30 p.m. in 1060 A/B BRC
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23539

**BIOE**
Manru Prakash, Stanford University
“Curiosity, Frugal Science and Global Health: Opportunities and Challenges”
4:00 p.m. in 1060 A/B BRC
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23296

**WEDNESDAY**

**Dean of Natural Sciences**
Kelli Gerardi, Commercial Spaceflight Federation
Houston Spaceport Frontier Lecture: “Under Construction: Paving the Road to Space Settlement”
7:00 p.m. in McMurtry Auditorium, Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23482

**THURSDAY**
**ECE**
Cunjiang Yu
“Flexible, Adaptive Camouflage Skins Using Concepts Inspired by Cephalopods”
4:00 p.m. in Herzstein Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22779

**PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY**
Solar Eclipse Viewing (weather permitting)
4:00 p.m. BRK and 4th Floor Observatory Brockman Hall for Physics
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23304

**FRIDAY**
**ECE**
Jim Ignowski, HP
IEEE Friday Lunch Talk
12:00 p.m. in 1064 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23194

**CEE**
Majid Minary, University of Texas at Dallas
“Bio-inspired Materials: Fabrications and Characterization”
2:00 p.m. in 201 Ryon Engineering Bldg
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23517

**SATURDAY**
REA Football Tailgate – 9am !!
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=18336

Here’s a list of upcoming major events.

**Dining with the Dean**
October 28—CHBE Undergraduates https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/zzfi26i1frrz7m/
November 12—STAT Undergraduates https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/zy8rk7r0zl0moa/
November 14 – CS Undergraduates https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/z19jo4mr168s407/
November 21—CAAM Undergraduates https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/z1ae67gw0kr6eqx/

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

**Thursday, October 30**
Engineering Graduate Student Research SCREECH!
http://screech.rcel.rice.edu/

**Thursday, November 6**
K2I Distinguished Lecture – Stanley Williams
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23375
6th Annual Rice Undergraduate Elevator Pitch Competition
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22716

Friday, November 7
REA Honors Presentation
Details TBD

Tuesday, November 11
K2I Distinguished Lecture – Katy Borner
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22459

Thursday, November 13
ECE Distinguished Speaker Colloquium – David Goodman
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23412

Hey, and have a great week!
Ned

Edwin L. Thomas
William and Stephanie Sick Dean of Engineering