They Swept the Elevator Pitch Competition!

Congratulations to Team Sharp Tank: Sergio Gonzalez, Andrew Cale (not pictured), Matthew Nojomi and Nimish Mittal, all BIOE seniors, and to team member Jordan Bley, Kinesiology, who took top honors at Thursday’s Undergraduate Elevator Pitch Competition. They’re all shown in the photo to the left, flanked by our good friend, Brad Burke of the Rice Alliance on the far left and OEDK Director Maria Oden and Read Johnson, Innovation Manager at General Electric, on the far right. Sharp Tank also took the prize for having the most marketable product, so they walked away with considerable cash in their pockets! The team designed a device for safe needle disposal for the developing world. You can read more about the competition and see who the other winners were here: http://engineering.rice.edu/2014_Elevator_Pitch/. I want to thank Maria and her OEDK staff, Brad and his crew, including Quynhmai Nguyen and Noy Shemer, for putting on a really good show! A tip of the hat, too, to event sponsors: General Electric, Chevron, Conoco Phillips, Rice Alliance and the OEDK.

New Fellow!

Congratulations to Jun Kono, professor of ECE, who has been elected to the Optical Society. Jun is being recognized for “pioneering contributions to fundamental optical studies of nanostructures . . . and their optoelectric device applications.”

Outside of the lab, Jun leads NanoJapan, a program that takes students from American Universities to Japanese labs for summer research in nanotechnology. The program is in its ninth year and is responsible for building many bridges between the U.S. and Japan. And it has won many awards for excellence!

You can read more about Jun being elected an OSA fellow and about his research at http://engineering.rice.edu/Kono_OSA/.
Best Paper! Good Work!

Congratulations to Adriana Flores, ECE graduate student, who won the Best Paper award at the IEEE Workshop on Cognitive Radio Architecture for Broadband (CRAB 2014) in Raleigh, N.C. Her paper was titled “Virtual Duplex: Scaling Dense WLANs and Eliminating Contention Asymmetry”—this is all about a new way to balance Wi-Fi traffic, which sounds pretty important to me! You can read more about Adriana and her research here: http://www.ece.rice.edu/Content.aspx?id=2147484066.

Formalize Your E-Ship Knowledge! Business Minor Program

E-SHIP

If you’ve got time in your course schedule and an interest in entrepreneurship, there are two new courses being offered in the spring through the Undergraduate Business Minor Program: BUSI 460, Foundations of Entrepreneurship I: Strategy and BUSI 461, Foundations of Entrepreneurship II: Financing. Each of these courses is half a semester long and the 460 course is a prereq for 461. Professor Yael Hochburg, who just came to Rice from the Kellogg School at Northwestern is teaching 460. She is very active in E-ship and two of her Northwestern teams WON the Rice Business Plan competition! Note that each of her teams had a balance of MBAs and ENGINEERS! You can find out more about these courses here: http://goo.gl/LKvjYa.

Should Marvin, the Autonomous Drive Vehicle, come to Rice?

I would like to gauge the interest of Rice engineers in having an autonomous vehicle, named “Marvin” at Rice. Marvin is equipped with Applanix—inertial/GPS navigation and Velodyne—LiDAR with 64 lasers. Marvin finished both the DARPA Mohave Challenge and the Urban Challenge, although he didn’t get a prize. I could imagine that MECH, CS, ECE, CAAM and others might get involved with various projects utilizing Marvin. If you are interested in helping bring Marvin from the outer edge of the Galaxy to Rice, let me know (DENG@rice.edu) within a few moments from the time you read this.
message. BTW, who’s Marvin anyway? Rumor has it that Ethan Frederic and Nathan Bucki are planning to use Marvin as a pace car for the upcoming 2015 Beer Bike!

**Two Important Messages for Freshmen! Advising Session Tonight!!!**

It’s time to be making some decisions about what courses you’ll be registering to take in the Spring semester. To help you get the most out of your first year, we are having an advising session today at 6pm in McMurtry Auditorium, Duncan Hall. Faculty from all the engineering departments will be there to help you map out your next semester. I encourage you to take advantage of their experience!

**Freshmen, Are You Lost in Spatial? Take the online Brain-Teaser!**

Strong spatial visualization skills are cognitive skills that are linked to success in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. Research has also shown that students with developed spatial skills perform better in their STEM classes and are retained in STEM at a higher rate. Starting this spring, first-year engineering students can further develop their spatial skills through a new course, ENGI 100. Find out if you’ll benefit from this class by taking a 25 min assessment before Thursday, Nov 13. It’s a fun, brain-teasing exercise that will indicate whether you would benefit from the class. Go to [http://goo.gl/t7dv4B](http://goo.gl/t7dv4B), log in to Owlspace, join the site and then take the posted Quiz. It could make a big difference in how well you do in your next engineering class!

**Lunch with the Dean: STAT Undergrads on Thursday!**

Tomorrow is the last day for STAT undergraduates to sign up to have lunch with me on Thursday! We’re meeting at noon in 1003 Duncan Hall (note that this is not the usual place we do this—and the room is smaller, so space is limited!).

Sign up here: [https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/zy8rk7r0zl0moa/](https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/zy8rk7r0zl0moa/).

**This Thursday: A Lesson in History – How Rice Started Silicon Valley!**

Don’t miss RCEL’s special event on Thursday when Katherine Maxfield talks about her book, “Starting Up Silicon Valley: How ROLM Became a Cultural Icon and Fortune 500 Company.” Katherine happens to be the spouse of one of ROLM’s founders (and good friend to the School of Engineering), Robert Maxfield. He, along with guys named Richeson, Oshman and Loewenstern started their business in a fruit shed and ended up a Fortune 500 company. Come and hear what they did and how they did it. Books will be on sale for $20 at the event and Katherine will be happy to sign them! Details at [http:// engr.rice.edu/EventsList.aspx?EventRecord=23580](http://engr.rice.edu/EventsList.aspx?EventRecord=23580).
Graduate Students: Take the Lead!

RCEL is offering a new course for graduate students in the spring semester: ENGI 615 Leadership Coaching for Engineers. It’ll meet Mondays 3-6 and you’ll learn the skills and practices of professional coaching, how to develop your leadership abilities and how to develop those skills in engineers and engineering teams. This is great stuff that could give you an edge over other applicants when you’re looking for a job! There will be an info session on the course today at 5pm in the OEDK classroom. For more information, see http://rcel.rice.edu/316.

Companie$s on Campu$s – Jobs, Internships, Free pens...

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Here are the events scheduled for this week:

TODAY
CAAM
Russell Hewett, Total
“A Polarized-Trace Solver for the Helmholtz Equation”
3pm in 1064 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22938

STAT
Alessandro Rinaldo, Carnegie Mellon University
“DeBaCl: A Density-Based Clustering Algorithm and its Properties”
4pm in 1070 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22605

Dean of Engineering
Spring Registration Advising Session
6pm in McMurtry Auditorium, Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23723

TUESDAY
**Center for Theoretical and Biological Physics**
Brian Kuhlman, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
“Computer-Based Design of Protein Structure and Function”
12:30 pm in 1060 A/B BRC
[http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23668](http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23668)

**CS**
Eli Singerman, Intel
“Validation of SoC Firmware-Hardware Flows”
2pm in 2014 Duncan Hall
[http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23661](http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23661)

**Ken Kennedy Institute for Information Technology**
Katy Börner, Indiana University Bloomington
K2I Distinguished Lecture: “Envisioning Communication and Collaboration”
4pm in McMurtry Auditorium, Duncan Hall
[http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22459](http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22459)

**BIOE**
Jeffrey A. Weiss, University of Utah
“Interaction of Angiogenic Microvessels with the Extracellular Matrix”
4pm in 280 BRC
[http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23300](http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23300)

**WEDNESDAY**
**Empowering Leadership Alliance**
“Managing Your LinkedIn and Facebook Accounts”
4pm in McMurtry Auditorium, Duncan Hall
[http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23724](http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23724)

**THURSDAY**
**Dean of Engineering**
Lunch with the Dean - STAT Undergraduates
12:00 p.m. in 1003 Duncan Hall
[https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/zy8rk7r0zl0moa/](https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/zy8rk7r0zl0moa/)

**ECE**
David Goodman, New York University
Distinguished Speaker Colloquium: “Advances in Wireless Communication”
12pm in McMurtry Auditorium, Duncan Hall
[http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23412](http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23412)

**ECE**
Venkat Chandrasekaran, Caltech
“Computational and Statistical Tradeoffs via Convex Relaxation”
4pm in 1064 Duncan Hall
[http://goo.gl/YeKfp2](http://goo.gl/YeKfp2)
CS
Andreas Haeberlen, University of Pennsylvania
“Accountability for distributed systems”
4pm in 1070 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23340

RCEL
Katherine Maxfield
“Starting Up Silicon Valley: How ROLM Became a Cultural Icon and Fortune 500 Company”
6:30pm in McMurtry Auditorium, Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23580

FRIDAY
ECE
Friday Lunch Talk: Oracle
12pm in 1064 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23713

CEE
Virender K. Sharma, Texas A&M University
“Greener Oxidants with Multimodal Action in Water Treatment Technologies”
2pm in 201 Ryon Engineering Bldg
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23518

Here are some upcoming major events.

Dining with the Dean
November 21—CAAM Undergraduates https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/z1ae67gw0kr6eqx/
November 25—CS Undergraduates https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/z19jo4rm168s407/

Monday, Nov. 17
Rice 360: Global Health Speaker–Andrew Quicksall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23715

Thursday, Dec. 4
Statistics End of Semester Poster Session
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23213

Have a great week!
Ned

Edwin L. Thomas
William and Stephanie Sick Dean of Engineering