The House was Rockin’!

RCEL’s graduate student committee led by Robert LiKamWa of ECE put on a heckuva Screech last Thursday! (They’re in the top left photo: Navid Sakhavand, CEE; Robert LiKamWa, ECE; Pei Dong, MSNE; Christine Hughes, CEE.) The auditorium was full, the 90-second pitches were polished and the organization was near flawless. Events like this are great for revving up the graduate student community and I want to congratulate all the participants and of course the winners! Taking first and a nice cash prize was Jason Gaspar of CEE; second was Souptik Barua of ECE and tied for third were Pelham Keahey and Yu Liu of MECH. CEE took the Best Department prize and the People’s Choice award went to Souptik. Best in department prizes went to CAAM: Johathan Baker; CS: Leo Elworth; ECE: Mahdi Assefzadeh; STAT: Ryan Warnick; CEE: Jacob Torres. There was a combined departments prize for BIOE, ChBE and MSNE because there was not enough competition within those departments. Taking that prize was Shaghayegh Agah of ChBE. Congratulations to you all and to the RCEL graduate student committee led by Robert for putting on such a great event! You can read more about the event, photos and see what the screech titles and prizes were here: http://engineering.rice.edu/screech2014/. You can hear the screeches here: http://goo.gl/0KAJJv.

Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen

Well, actually not over in the Kitchen but over at Shell Auditorium at 4:30pm on Thursday. The 6th Annual Rice Undergraduate Elevator Pitch Competition! Come support your GRB SoE classmates!

Elected Fellow

Congratulations to Marina Vannucci, professor and chair of STAT, who has been elected a fellow of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis for her contributions to the theory and practice of Bayesian variable selection techniques and service to the organization. You can
read more about this distinction and Marina’s work here: [http://engineering.rice.edu/vannucci_isba/](http://engineering.rice.edu/vannucci_isba/).

**Living the Dream!**

Last week I heard about one of our MECH engineers, **Sanjiv Gopalkrishnan**, who has walked on to the Rice baseball team. Who says engineers don’t have time for extracurriculars? Sanjiv has been playing ball since he was a kid in Missouri City, Texas and when the team needed another catcher, he was drafted, so to speak. You can read about how he’s doing his part for the Owls and his plans for the future here: [http://engineering.rice.edu/sanjivg/](http://engineering.rice.edu/sanjivg/).

**TV Worth Watching**


**Heads Up: An Event Well Worth Attending—Schmooze with Alums…**

On Friday, the Rice Engineering Alumni will be presenting its **Outstanding Alumni Awards** for 2014 at 4pm in McMurtry Auditorium. Receiving honors will be ECE PhD grad **Sandra Johnson ’88** and MECH and CS grad **Rakesh Agrawal ’98**, Outstanding Alumna and Outstanding Young Alumnus, respectively. **Sandra was the first African American woman in the country to get a PhD in ECE.** She spent many years working her way up the ladder at IBM and now has a non-profit. Rakesh is an entrepreneur that many current CS students and faculty have met through his company, SnapStream, which does news aggregation software used by TV shows like the Daily Show, among others. This is a high honor for an alum and I’d like to see good support at the event, especially from the recipients’ departments (CS/MECH/ECE). I’ll also be giving a state-of-the-school address and there will be a nice reception for everyone who attends. This annual event is part of Homecoming weekend—**be there**!

That’s the Spirit! **Rice Engineering Leads the Way!**
Speaking of Homecoming, if you’ve walked by my office the past few days you might have noticed the fancy window dressing. Some of my staff, Melissa Chaviers, Tina Fernandez-Moya, Michelle Atkinson, Kathryn O’Brien, Janice Bordeaux and Doni Soward, have decorated for the Homecoming office decoration competition (love those competitions!) and I think they did a super job! We don’t know yet who won, but ours has got to have the most class! What do you think? *Rice Engineering Leads the Way!* GO TEAM!!!!

**How Rice Started Silicon Valley—Mark Your Calendars!**

On Thursday next week, the 13th, RCEL will host a special event celebrating the publication of "Starting Up Silicon Valley: How ROLM Became a Cultural Icon and Fortune 500 Company" featuring the author, Kathie Maxfield. Most of you are too young to have heard of ROLM, a company started by four Rice ECE alums, Gene Richeson, Ken Oshman, Walter Loewenstern and Robert Maxfield (get it? ROLM!). They built computers for the military and one of the first digital phone systems. ROLM also pioneered the kind of workplace amenities that are de rigueur in Silicon Valley today—they had a swimming pool and rec center and other things that made ROLM a great place to work. Books will be on sale for $20 and Kathie will be signing them. Don’t miss this great lesson in the history of the IT business! More details on the event are here: [http://engr.rice.edu/EventsList.aspx?EventRecord=23580](http://engr.rice.edu/EventsList.aspx?EventRecord=23580).

**Rice Engineering Magazine 2014 Edition: Now Online, Delivered to Engineering Departments Soon!**

### Company$ on Campu$'
For more information on these and other CCD events, see [http://ccd.rice.edu](http://ccd.rice.edu).

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Here are the events scheduled for this week:

**TODAY**
**CAAM**
“Krein-Gelfand-Levitan Algorithm for Inverse Hyperbolic Problems via Spectrally Matched Finite-Difference Grids”
3:00 p.m. in 1064 Duncan Hall
[http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22937](http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22937)

**ECE**
Carlos Cordeiro, Intel Corporation USA
“Generation WiFi”
3:00 p.m. in 212 Herzstein Hall
[http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23413](http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23413)

**STAT**
Paul Shaman, University of Pennsylvania
“The Bias of the Yule-Walker Estimator of Autoregressive Model Coefficients”
4:00 p.m. in 1070 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22603

TUESDAY
Center for Theoretical Biological Physics
Gemunu Gunaratne, University of Houston
“Controlling partially-known networks using response surfaces”
12:30 p.m. in 1060 A/B BRC
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23644

ECE
Namrata Vaswani, Iowa State University
“Online Robust PCA or Online Sparse Matrix Recovery from Large but Structured Noise”
4:00 p.m. in 1064 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22782

BIOE
Molly Shoichet, University of Toronto
“Regenerative Medicine Strategies: Local Cell and Drug Delivery”
4:00 p.m. in 280 BRC
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22945

WEDNESDAY
MECH
Andrew Alleyne, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
“Transient Thermal System Modeling and Control”
4:00 p.m. in 128 Mechanical Engineering Bldg
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23526

THURSDAY
CHBE
Julia Kornfield, California Institute of Technology
“Mega-Supramolecules for Safer, Cleaner Fuel”
2:30 p.m. in 212 Herzstein Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22745

Kennedy Institute for Information Technology
Stanley Williams, HP Labs
"The Machine: The HP Memristor Solution for Computing Big Data"
4:00 p.m. in 102 Keck Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23375

Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen
6th Annual Rice Undergraduate Elevator Pitch Competition
4:30 in Shell Auditorium, Jones School of Business
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=22716
FRIDAY

ECE
Youngki Lee, Singapore Management University
“Mobile interaction sensing system and its applications”
Noon in 227 Abercrombie
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23655

CS
Kathryn McKinley
“Uncertain <T>: Programming with Estimates”
1:30 p.m. in 3092 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23558

MSNE
Ghaithan Al-Muntasher, Aramco Services
“Introduction to Hydraulic Fracturing and Its Fluids”
2:00 p.m. in 102 Keck Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=23591

REA/Dean of Engineering
REA Alumni Honors Presentation
Ned’s State of the School Address!!
4:00 p.m. in McMurtry Auditorium, Duncan Hall
http://engr.rice.edu/EventsList.aspx?EventRecord=23657

Here are some upcoming major events.

Dining with the Dean
November 13—STAT Undergraduates https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/zy8rk7r0zl0moa/
November 21—CAAM Undergraduates https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/z1ae67gw0kr6eqx/

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

Have a great week! Stay awake. Be Awesome!
Ned

Edwin L. Thomas
William and Stephanie Sick Dean of Engineering