Out of this world!

Last week two engineers from the Mars Rover mission visited campus as guests of the Rice Center for Engineering Leadership and the Rice Space Institute. Bobak Ferdowski and Ravi Prakash spent the day with students at the OEDK, gave a lunchtime talk, then gave a talk to a packed McMurtry auditorium in the evening. You can see a video about their visit to the OEDK here: http://youtu.be/o2IiATREYDM.

An engineer who leads

This week we’ll host Nan Bouchard, VP of Program Management for Defense, Space and Security at Boeing Corporation. Students and faculty are invited to lunch with Nan on Thursday at noon. Find out how she started out with a degree in chemical engineering from Rice and moved into a leadership position in the aerospace industry. This morning the maximum number of people had registered to attend, so it’s too late to sign up.

Sign up, then show up!

This brings me to a topic I’d like to address. If you sign up to attend an event, you need to attend! Organizers base how many lunches they order or how much food for receptions (and how much drink!) based on how many people sign up. Also, if you sign up and don’t show, you might have kept someone else who wanted to attend from getting in to an event. Consider this a professional standard and live up to it.

Freshmen! Take some advice!

On Thursday from 4-5:30 pm in Duncan Hall, McMurtry Auditorium, there will be a special advising session for freshmen. Don’t miss this chance to get the lowdown on what is best for you to take next semester. After a short general info session, the departments will have faculty advisors in the classrooms around Martel Hall where you can get some specialized advice. Don’t miss this opportunity!

Grad students have to eat, too!

I’m looking forward to having lunch with MEMS PhD grad students tomorrow. Friday was the last day to sign up but I’m going to make an executive decision and give you until noon today to sign up. Go here: https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/dining-with-the-dean-mems-phd-grad-students/ to do the deed and if you do, lunch is on me tomorrow!
Congratulations to Zheng Liu, joint research scientist in the labs of PM Ajayan and Jun Lou in MEMS, who was named a 2012 World Technology Award for Energy finalist at the World Technology Awards ceremony in New York last month. This means Zheng is a fellow in the WTN, “an exclusive community of innovative individuals, companies and organizations in science, technology and related fields.”

**Fellowships announced**

![Images of fellows](Image)

The Kennedy Institute announced the winners of some fellowships last week and I’d like to congratulate the recipients (not all are shown here). Max Grossman, CS and Yin Huang, CAAM got Oil and Gas High Performance Computing Fellowships; Xu Liu, CS and Muhong Zhou, CAAM, received BP fellowships; Azalia Mirhoseini and Devin Grady won fellowships from Schlumberger; the ExxonMobil fellowship went to Jianxin Lu of MEMS; Kun Liu of CAAM got the Shell fellowship; and Yiting Xia, CS, won the Kennedy-Cray fellowship. Congratulations to all of you and to your advisors!

**November Service Awards**

These loyal folks are being recognized with service awards this month: for 5 years of service, Volkan Cevher of ECE and Kay Desmond of BIOE and for 15 years of service, Carolyn Aresu of ECE and Linda Lerma of MEMS. Congratulations to all of you and thank you for your years of service!

Here are the events scheduled for this week and the Dean’s top recommendations:

**TODAY**

**CAAM**

David Fuentes, MD Anderson
“Computer Model Assisted Treatment Planning and Data Assimilation for MRgLITT”
3 p.m. in 1064 Duncan Hall
[http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=18252](http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=18252)

**CEE**

Y.L. Mo, University of Houston
“Seismic Hazard Mitigation of Concrete Structures”
3:45 p.m. in 201 Ryon Engineering Bldg
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=18702

TUESDAY
Dean of Engineering
Dining with the Dean: MEMS PhD students
Noon in 1049 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=18840

WEDNESDAY
MEMS
Kenji Taikzawa, Waseda University
“Fluid-Structure Interaction Modeling and Analysis of Spacecraft Parachutes”
4 p.m. in 128 Mechanical Engineering Bldg
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19035

THURSDAY
ECE
Roger Woods, Queen’s University
“Novel Architectures and Design Tools for the Implementation of Complex DSP Systems on FPGA-Based Technologies”
4 p.m. in 1064 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=18872

FRIDAY
CEE
Seth G. Guikema, Johns Hopkins University
Title TBA
3:45 p.m. in 201 Ryon Engineering Building
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=18738

These events are scheduled in the coming weeks:
Dining with the Dean for Undergraduates
Nov. 20: CAAM POSTPONED
http://engr.rice.edu/EventsList.aspx?EventRecord=18384

Tuesday November 13, 2012
Scientia Colloquium: “The Power of Ideas”
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=18645

Thursday, November 15, 2012
Undergraduate Elevator Pitch Competition
http://oedk.rice.edu/ep

Tuesday, December 4, 2012
REA Fall Social
http://engr.rice.edu/EventsList.aspx?EventRecord=18337
Tuesday, December 18, 2012
School of Engineering and School of Natural Sciences Faculty and Staff Holiday Party

Have a great week!
Ned

Edwin L. Thomas
William and Stephanie Sick Dean of Engineering