Rodeo Fever!
I hope you were at the Rodeo for Rice Night last week. You might have caught your dean and his wife, Dee, riding in the Grand Entry Parade! We enjoyed it and I hope you did, too!

Welcome, Agustina!
I would like to welcome Agustina Fernandez-Moya (Tina), the new coordinator for the professional master’s programs in the School of Engineering. Tina has an impressive background in marketing and she’s already putting her skills to work for us. You can read more about Tina and what she’ll be doing here: http://engineering.rice.edu/agustina/. Happy to have you here, Tina!

More for Professional Master’s Students!
If you professional master’s students missed last week’s lunchtime seminar, there’s one more session in the series coming up on April 9. You can read all about what you missed and find a link to register for the next event at http://engr.rice.edu/seminarseries/.

Wanted: Engineers Who Can Write!
You know, there’s an awful lot of good stuff going on in the School of Engineering and very, very little of it is covered in the Thresher. It has come to my attention that they are looking for writers and photographers (they pay!), and it sure would be nice to have an engineer who could cover some of our more important events and accomplishments. What do you say, Shakespeare? Are you game? Send a message to thresh@rice.edu and get a job!
Calling All Entrepreneurs!
If you’re interested in entrepreneurship, you should sign up for the networking event for students that the Entrepreneurship Division of the Rice Business Collaborative and OwlSpark are having this Thursday. MBAs, grad students, and undergraduates from all of Rice’s disciplines are invited to participate, so if you have an idea for a startup or skills that a startup might use, go to this event and meet some collaborators! Register at http://calvinschmdt.wufoo.com/forms/rice-entrepreneurship-networking-registration/. See the calendar below for more information.

Work on Your Leadership Skills!
RCEL student leaders are organizing an engineering leadership lab for Sunday, March 17. Here’s another opportunity for you to improve your leadership skills. Space is limited and dinner is included. Don’t wait to sign up. See http://rcel.rice.edu for more information and a link to registration.

Faculty: Funding for Course Development—go asynch!
The provost’s office is calling for proposals for development grants for courses with asynchronous content, so if you’re planning on developing online and blended courses, this is your chance to get some support from the university (a good thing!). You need to hurry, though; the deadline is this Friday, March 15. For full information, see http://engineering.rice.edu/uploadedFiles/School_of_Engineering/Faculty/call_for_proposals.pdf.

Lunch with the Dean: MEMS Undergrads!
I had a good time with the computer science undergraduates last week at lunchtime and I’m looking forward to hosting the MEMS undergrads Friday, March 22. Sign up by March 20 here: https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/q7p1w7/ by Wednesday, March 20.

Take the Challenge!
The OEDK was rockin’ last Friday at the Innovate Challenge! If you haven’t been to one, you really need to go and see why so many students and staff (not so many faculty!) are coming back every week to participate! The winners of Friday’s competition were: Stephen Yan, BIOE, Tung Nguyen, ChBE and Michael
Donatti, MEMS. That ball of paper they are holding was their idea of an airplane. Well, it “flew” the farthest and stayed aloft the longest, anyway. The Challenge happens every Friday at noon—sign ups start at 11:50am.

ASM Coming to Campus Tomorrow!
Representatives from the American Society of Metals will be on campus tomorrow evening and they’re inviting all engineering students to join them at 5:30 in Duncan Hall, room 3092. This is a great chance for you to meet people in the engineering industry, especially in the energy sector. I’ll be giving an overview of engineering at Rice—the past 100 years and what’s to come in the next century. I hope to see a lot of you there!

See you at the Ball Park!
Rice Engineering Alumni are having a tailgate party before the game Saturday and they’d like to see a lot of engineering faculty and staff at their tent. The party starts at noon but you need to get a ticket ($10), so sign up here: https://online.alumni.rice.edu/default.aspx?Page=EVTEventDetail&EventID=1634 by Wednesday.

Photo of the Week
Jamie Padgett and her graduate students hosted some local 8th graders on Wednesday to introduce them to the joys of engineering. On Thursday, Rice Empower hosted about 150 8th and 9th graders on campus for more STEM activities. Valerie Bolanos, ChBE senior, spearheaded that activity and CEE grad student, Navid Ataei coordinated the event in Jamie’s lab. Good work, folks! We need more engineers!

Here are the events scheduled for this week:

TODAY
CAAM
Michael Ferris, University of Wisconsin, Madison
“Extended Mathematical Programming: Completion and Stochasticity”
3:00 p.m. in 1064 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=6383

CEE
Kartik Chandran, Columbia University
3:45 p.m. in 201 Ryon Engineering Bldg
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19911
STAT
Edward Kambour, PROS
“A New Approach to Estimating Customer Demand via Willingness to Pay and Application to the Travel Industry”
4:00 p.m. in 1070 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19013

WEDNESDAY
MEMS
Theo Borca-Tasciuc, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
“Thermal and Thermoelectric Transport in Nanostructured Materials for Thermal Management and Energy Conversion Applications”
4:00 p.m. in 128 Mechanical Engineering Bldg
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19651

THURSDAY
Entrepreneurship Networking Event
6:00 pm in McNair 316
Register at http://calvinschmdt.wufoo.com/forms/rice-entrepreneurship-networking-registration/

FRIDAY
OEDK Innovate Challenge
Signups start at 11:50am
http://oedk.rice.edu/events?eventId=608021&EventViewMode=EventDetails

SATURDAY:
Rice Engineering Alumni
REA Baseball Tailgate
Noon at Reckling Park
https://online.alumni.rice.edu/default.aspx?Page=EVNTEventDetail&EventID=1634

SUNDAY
RCEL Leadership Lab
5pm at the OEDK
http://rcel.rice.edu/lab/

These events are scheduled for the coming weeks:

Dining with the Dean
March 22, MEMS Undergraduates
Register at: https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/q7p1w7/
April 5, STAT Undergraduates
Register at: https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/q7p1m5/
April 18, CAAM Undergraduates
Register at:https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/q7p0x3//
March 22-23
Conference of Texas Statisticians
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19516

Wednesday, March 27
K2I Distinguished Lecture – Lynda Chin
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19290

Wednesday, April 3
ECE Annual Affiliates Meeting
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=18780

Thursday, April 4
William Press, UT Austin
K2I Distinguished Lecture: What's So Special About Science and How Much Should We Spend on It?
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19580

Tuesday, April 9, 2013
Professional Engineering Master’s Seminar Series
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=20001

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

Saturday, April 13, 2013
REA/School of Engineering End-of-Year Picnic
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19657

Have a great week!
Ned

Edwin L. Thomas
William and Stephanie Sick Dean of Engineering