Milestone in a CAREER

Congratulations to Laura Segatori, T.N. Law Assistant Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, who has won the NSF CAREER Award with her proposal, “Engineering cellular clearance pathways using nanoparticles.” This is the NSF’s most prestigious award for young faculty members. It is given to young faculty “who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education and the integration of education and research within the context of the mission of their organizations.” My heartiest congratulations to you, Laura! You can visit Laura’s research group web site at: http://www.owlnet.rice.edu/~ls15/segatori/.

Recognizing Stellar Teaching

Congratulations to Ann Saterbak, Professor in the Practice of Bioengineering and their Director of Laboratory Instruction for winning the Theo C. Pilkington Outstanding Educator Award from the Biomedical Division of the American Society of Engineering Educators. The award is given for “significant contributions to biomedical engineering education.” You can see a video about Ann’s work at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRndefiGaVE&list=PL0373A23703CA92AA&index=2.

New US News Graduate Program Rankings

Last week US News put out their graduate program rankings for 2014. Here’s how we fared compared to last year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate Department</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
<th>This Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bioengineering</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical engineering</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil engineering</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer engineering</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical engineering</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental engineering</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical engineering</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRB School of Engineering</strong></td>
<td><strong>31</strong></td>
<td><strong>32</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you can see, we could be doing better in most areas. Let’s “step up our game!”

Get a (Summer) Job!
Students, if you haven’t lined up an internship for this summer, you should be working on it—now. We have created a web page with links to employers who have told me that they are very interested in having Rice engineering students as summer interns. Find out more at [http://engr.rice.edu/internships/](http://engr.rice.edu/internships/).

**Lunch is on Me—for MEMS Undergrads!**
I’ll be hosting MEMS undergraduate students for lunch on Friday at noon in Duncan Hall room 1049. Wednesday is the last day to sign up, so go to [https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/q7p1w7/](https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/q7p1w7/), then come to lunch with your comments, suggestions, observations about being MEMS majors.

**State of Entrepreneurship – a minute of your time…** RCEL wants to know what you think about how Rice is doing on fostering entrepreneurship on campus. They want to use your feedback to improve the state of entrepreneurship at Rice so take a few moments to share your thoughts in this very short survey: [https://riceuniversity.us.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_bqHQM55agGraSl7](https://riceuniversity.us.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_bqHQM55agGraSl7).

**Take the Challenge—Before It’s Too Late!**
With midterm recess at the end of this month, there are only two more dates for open Innovate Challenges at the OEDK. Last week’s winners bested the other teams who had to design a device that made it possible for someone with ankylosed elbows to independently eat meals. On the winning team were **Duffy Elmer**, BIOE, **Kyle Shepherd**, CEE and **Stephen Yan**, BIOE. This is the third win for both Kyle and Stephen. Congratulations to all of you! The remaining challenges are this Friday and April 5. For those of you who’ve been participating, there will be a feedback session pizza party on April 12 and the final challenge on April 19 will be by invitation only—only those who have been on winning teams will be invited—but come and root for your friends!
Spring is for Picnics!
The REA is gearing up for the picnic they put on every spring and of course, everyone in the School of Engineering is invited, so put it on your calendars! It will be Saturday, April 13th at 4:30pm in the engineering quad. They give away tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships at this picnic every year—and provide you with food and drink! See the calendar below for more information.

These events are scheduled for this week:

**TODAY**
**CAAM**
Michael Trosset, Indiana University
“Out-of-Sample Embedding”
3p.m. in 1064 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=18249

**CEE**
Richard G. Baraniuk, Rice University
“The Future of Online Education: Disruptive Innovation via Open Education Resources”
3:45 p.m. in 201 Ryon Engineering Bldg
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19784

**STAT**
Abel Rodriguez, University of California, Santa Cruz
“A Nonparametric Bayesian Model for Legislative Voting”
4 p.m. in 1070 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19014

**TUESDAY**
**BIOE**
Trevor Douglas, Montana State University
“Redesigning Protein Cage Architectures for Catalytic and Biomedical Applications”
4 p.m. in 280 BRC
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19989

**WEDNESDAY**
**MEMS**
Mario Di Paola, University of Palermo
“Fractional Calculus with Applications in Probability and Stochastic Processes”
4 p.m. in 128 Mechanical Engineering Bldg
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19652

**THURSDAY**
**MEMS**
Bryan M. Wong, Sandia National Laboratories
“Energy Transfer in Molecular Photovoltaics, Carbon Nanotubes and Nanowires—A First-Principles Perspective”
3 p.m. in 102 Keck Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=20011

BIOE
Jeff Willey, Wake Forest School of Medicine
“Acute Radiation-Induced Bone and Cartilage Damage: Implications for Late Skeletal Injury”
4 p.m. in 280 BRC
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19997

FRIDAY
OEDK Innovate Challenge
Signups start at 11:50am
http://oedk.rice.edu/events?eventId=60801&EventViewMode=EventDetails

Dean of Engineering
Dining with the Dean: MEMS Undergraduates
12 p.m. in 1049 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19556

ECE
Xaq Pitkow, University of Rochester
“Efficient Coding and Beyond in the Early Visual System”
2 p.m. in 1049 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19804

FRIDAY-SATURDAY
STAT
Conference of Texas Statisticians
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19516

These events are scheduled for the coming weeks:

Dining with the Dean
April 5, STAT Undergraduates
Register at: https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/q7p1m5/
April 18, CAAM Undergraduates
Register at: https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/q7p0x3/

Monday, March 25
Chapman Distinguished Lecture
“The Nano-Gold Rush”
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19755

Wednesday, April 3
ECE Annual Affiliates Meeting
Thursday, April 4
K2I Distinguished Lecture
“What’s So Special About Science and How Much Should We Spend on It?”
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=18780

Tuesday, April 9, 2013
Professional Engineering Master’s Seminar Series
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19580

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

K2I Lecture Series
“Building Rice’s Human and Organizational Capital: A Draft of the Senate Working Group on Research and Scholarship—Request for Comments”
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=20012

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