Welcome back to those of you who have taken a break. I hope you’re rested and roaring to go! Last week there was plenty going on at Rice – read more about the HPC for Oil and Gas meeting below. Now, I’m ready for the rodeo! Saddle up on Thursday (Rice Night) and meet me there! Yee-haw!

Congratulations to Kathy Ensor, professor of statistics and department chair and Loren Raun, faculty fellow in statistics, whose article on the connection between smog and cardiac arrest has been generating wide media coverage. The paper was first presented Feb. 17 at the annual meeting of the AAAS. Great work, statisticians! You can read the news release on their paper at http://engineering.rice.edu/smogandcardiacarrest/.

Wei Tang, graduate student in civil and environmental engineering, has taken the Best Student Presentation award at the annual conference of the American Meteorological Society. Wei’s research is on improving the modeling of nitrogen dioxide, which is present in ozone formation. Wei’s advisor is Dan Cohan, assistant professor of CEE. Congratulations, Wei! Read about this accomplishment at http://engineering.rice.edu/weitang/.

K2I Hit It Out of the Park!
Congratulations to Jan Odegard, executive director of the Kennedy Institute for Information Technology and Victoria Langlais, institute administrator, who pulled off a great meeting of IT folks from the oil and gas industry. They had around 350 people attend this annual event, which means they put in a lot of hard work to organize it. You can read all about it at: http://engr.rice.edu/oilandgasworkshop/.

March Service Awards
We have some people to congratulate and to thank for their service to the university and the School of Engineering: Marilee Dizon Le, administrative coordinator at the OEDK, has been with Rice for five years this month and Teia Wright, senior department administrator for MEMS, is celebrating 15 years with Rice. Congratulations to you both!

Special Events this Week!
Professional Master’s Students: Lunch and Learn!
The second in the Professional Master’s Seminar Series is going to be held Wednesday at noon in Duncan Hall 3076. The speaker will be our friend, Bryan Hassin, who is the RCEL Entrepreneur in Residence at Rice, among other things. Bryan has done many cool entrepreneurial projects, so be sure to go and hear the wisdom he has to impart. RSVP here https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/q7w9k9/ by the end of the day today!

CS Undergrads: You’re Invited to Lunch!
I’ll be meeting with undergrads from CS on Thursday at lunchtime (that’s noon) in Duncan Hall, room 1049 and I’m looking forward to a good group and lively discussion! RSVP here: https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/m7p2a9/ by the end of the day tomorrow.

Get the Lowdown on Rice’s First MOOC
On Thursday at 4pm Scott Rixner, professor of computer science, will be telling about the development, structure and organization of what is now ranked the best MOOC across several disciplines (on several MOOC rating sites). He’ll also share some insight into what made this MOOC such a transformative experience for those who taught it. The talk will take place in Duncan Hall, room 1070. Find out more here: http://compsci.rice.edu/events.cfm?EventRecord=19951.

Students: Time to Nominate the Faculty!
The Presidential Mentoring Award committee is calling for nominations from graduate students and faculty. This award was established to recognize faculty members with outstanding contributions to the mentoring of students. I know there are some great mentors out there, so let’s get them recognized! Last year David Scott, Noah Harding Professor of Statistics won the award. The deadline for nominations is Wednesday, March 22. Contact Linda Torres at linda.torres@rice.edu to find out how to nominate.

Show Off Your Research, Students!
The Sigma Xi Student Research Showcase is coming up and they’re inviting students to give “virtual research presentations” in the competition. You need to act fast to participate; the deadline is this Friday, March 8! See http://www.sigmaxi.org/meetings/src/showcase.shtml for more information.

REA Scholarships
The deadline is approaching (March 11) to apply for the REA’s annual scholarships. You’ll find the applications and information at http://engr.rice.edu/rea_scholarships2013/. They’ll be giving out about $100,000 in scholarships, so don’t miss this opportunity!

Here are the events scheduled for this week:

TODAY
CAAM – hear from the Department Chair of CAAM!
Matthias Heinkenschloss, Rice University
“A New Approach for Model and Parameter Identification”  
3:00 p.m. in 1064 Duncan Hall  
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19912

CEE  
Andrew Henderson, UT Health Science Center at Houston  
“Milk, Metals and More: Integrating Life Cycle Assessment, Water and Sustainability”  
3:45 p.m. in 201 Ryon Engineering Bldg  
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19715

STAT  
Leland Wilkinson, University of Illinois  
“High-Dimensional Visual Analytics: Exploring Structure Using Low-Dimensional Projections”  
4:00 p.m. in 1070 Duncan Hall  
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19012

WEDNESDAY  
Dean of Engineering  
Bryan Hassin, CEO Smart Office Energy Solutions and RCEL Entrepreneur-in-Residence  
Professional Master’s Seminar Series Session 2  
12:00 p.m. in 3076 Duncan Hall  
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19823

MEMS  
Lee Morin, NASA, Johnson Space Center  
4:00 p.m. in 128 Mechanical Engineering Building  
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19787

THURSDAY  
Dean of Engineering  
Dining with the Dean: CS Undergraduates  
12:00 p.m. in 1049 Duncan Hall  
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19555

CS  
Anatomy of a MOOC  
Scott Rixner  
4pm in Duncan Hall room 1070  
http://compsci.rice.edu/events.cfm?EventRecord=19951

CHBE  
T.W. Leland Jr. Lecture in Chemical Engineering  
James A. Dumesic, University of Wisconsin, Madison  
“Strategies for Catalytic Conversion Lignocellulosic Biomass to Fuels and Chemicals”  
4:00 p.m. in 100 Keck Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19167

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

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/

**Saturday, March 16, 2013**
Rice Engineering Alumni Baseball Tailgate
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19162

**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

**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