What a Week it Was!
Design Showcase

I really enjoyed the OEDK’s Design Showcase last Thursday. More than 300 students on 78 teams competed, with 65 alumni and industry partners serving as judges. If we could have harnessed the energy in Tudor Fieldhouse we could have kept that jumbotron going for a long time! **Team Brittle Bones** took the big $5,000 prize. Brittle Bones is a group of three sophomores, **Matthew Nojoomi, Nimish Mittal** and **Sergio Gonzalez**, all BIOE majors, who built a robotic assistive reaching mechanism for a patient at Shriners Hospital. There were lots of other winners, too, and I congratulate all of you! You can watch a video about the Showcase, read more about Team Brittle Bones’ project and see a list of the other winners at [http://oedk.rice.edu/news?mode=PostView&bmi=1267026](http://oedk.rice.edu/news?mode=PostView&bmi=1267026).

**Engineers can act...**

Those of you who were at the Showcase saw proof that engineers can be actors too! A group of engineering students: **Carolina White, Nathan Lo, Alex Nuñez-Thompson** and **Jessica Williams** did an awesome testimonial in honor of **Tracy Volz**, who is leaving RCEL and engineering to become the director of Rice’s program in writing and communication. Watch the video—they were great! [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZwn3tSZmLg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZwn3tSZmLg). And they were right—Tracy will be greatly missed in the School of Engineering!

**RURS**

Engineering was well-represented Friday at the Rice Undergraduate Research Symposium. More than 250 students from across campus competed and prizes were given for each school. Taking the award for the Best Group Engineering Project were **C.J. Williams, Storm Slivkoff, Elmer Duffy** and **Carolyne Ma**. The Engineering Award for Top Individual Projects went to 1. **Yu-Yi Lee**, 2. **Andria Remirez** and 3. **Ravi Sheth**. Congratulations to all of you! You can see winners from the other schools and winners of other special prizes here: [http://ofur.rice.edu/content.aspx?id=4294967413](http://ofur.rice.edu/content.aspx?id=4294967413).

**GSA Annual Awards**

The Graduate Student Association has announced its annual awards and their Friend of Rice Graduate Students award was given posthumously to **Alex Ferrance** of FE&P. Alex was the liaison between the Schools of Engineering and Natural Sciences and Facilities, Engineering and Planning. He died earlier
this year after a long struggle with cancer. Alex had many friends in graduate students and it was nice of them to honor him with this award. The GSA Service Award went to two engineering graduate students, **Anne Hellebust** of BIOE and **Kiri Kilpatrick** of ChBE. Congratulations to you both and thank you for the work you do on behalf of graduate students.

**REA Rocks!**

Saturday afternoon, a large crowd turned out amongst the 45/90/180 rocks to enjoy BBQ and celebrate the awarding of **$100K in scholarships**. There were many scholarships awarded, so I’ll just mention that **Rahul Rekhi**, BIOE, was named the Outstanding Senior and **Stephanie Tzouanas**, BIOE, was named the Outstanding Junior (they’re shown in the top two photos with REA prez, **Kate Hallaway**). The Hershel M. Rich Award went to **Pulickel Ajayan**, the Benjamin and Mary Greenwood Anderson Professor in Engineering and his graduate student, **Daniel Hashim** and the Ralph Budd Outstanding Thesis Award went to **Chinmay Hegde** of ECE. I want to thank **Kate Hallaway ’04 CEE**, the current REA president, incoming president **Dave French ’91 MECH**, and all of the REA Board for putting on a great event. I also want to thank the REA for supporting the School, not only with scholarships for students but as mentors, judges at competitions and in many other ways. You can see a complete list of the winners here: [http://engineering.rice.edu/uploadedFiles/School_of_Engineering/Alumni/REA%20Awards%202013.pdf](http://engineering.rice.edu/uploadedFiles/School_of_Engineering/Alumni/REA%20Awards%202013.pdf). Watch the Engineering homepage for a link to the full story and more photos.

**Big Honor!**

Finally, I want to congratulate **Andrew Amis**, junior ChBE major, who has been selected to receive the prestigious Truman Scholarship in public policy. Andrew is one of 62 students nationally to win the scholarship and it’s a pretty rare thing for an engineering to get one. Having said that, this is the second year in a row that a Rice engineer has been a Truman Scholar. Last year BIOE senior, Rahul Rekhi won the honor. You can read about Andrew’s many accomplishments here: [http://news.rice.edu/2013/04/10/rice-student-named-truman-scholar-2/](http://news.rice.edu/2013/04/10/rice-student-named-truman-scholar-2/).

**CAAM Undergrads: Join me for Lunch This Week!**

CAAM undergrads have until tomorrow to sign up for lunch with me this Thursday at noon in Duncan Hall 1049. Here’s where you sign up: [https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/q7p0x3/](https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/q7p0x3/). Looking forward to seeing you Thursday!

**Late Entry: Networking Event for Grad Students in IT Fields**

The Rice Alumni Association is hosting a networking event for graduate students and alumni in information technology fields on Thursday at Huff House, 6:30pm. Find more details here: [https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/q7p0x3/](https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/q7p0x3/). Here are the events scheduled for this week:

**TODAY**
CAAM  
Nancy Rodriguez, Stanford University  
“Non-Local Effects in Social Phenomenon”  
3 p.m. in 1064 Duncan Hall  
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=20217

CEE  
Phil Stewart, Montana State University  
“Biofilm Engineering”  
3:45 p.m. in 201 Ryon Engineering Bldg  
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19814

STAT  
Michael Daniels, University of Texas at Austin  
“Modeling and Estimating Correlation Matrices Using Partial Autocorrelations”  
4 p.m. in 1070 Duncan Hall  
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19019

TUESDAY  
Ken Kennedy Institute for Information Technology  
Shared Computing Training  
2 p.m. in Ryon Lab  
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=20230

BIOE  
Vicky Nguyen, Johns Hopkins University  
“Biomechanics of the Sclera”  
4 p.m. in 280 BRC  
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19998

WEDNESDAY  
MEMS  
Chen Yuan, Nanyang Technological University  
“Chiral-Selective Growth of Single Walled Carbon Nanotube and Antibacterial Activity of Carbon Nanomaterials”  
4 p.m. in 128 Mechanical Engineering Bldg  
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19776

THURSDAY  
April 18  
Dean of Engineering  
Dining with the Dean: CAAM Undergrads  
12 p.m. in 1049 Duncan Hall  
https://engrice.wufoo.com/forms/q7p0x3//

CS  
Computer Science End of School Lunch  
12 p.m. in 3092 Duncan Hall  
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=20224

FRIDAY  
CAAM  
Jesse Chan, University of Texas at Austin  
12 p.m. in 3076 Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=20198

Here are some events scheduled in the coming weeks:

**May 1**
Commercialize It!
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=20251

**May 2**
4th Annual Rice Undergraduate Venture Challenge
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19595

Have a great week!
Ned

Edwin L. Thomas
William and Stephanie Sick Dean of Engineering