It was a quiet week on campus but there was an undercurrent of energy in the School of Engineering. We got great news last week: Richard Tapia, University Professor and much-decorated professor of computational and applied math, was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Richard is one of 198 new members that include “the world’s most accomplished scholars, scientists, writers, artists and civic, corporate and philanthropic leaders,” according to the AAAS news release. Heartiest congratulations, Richard, on this latest accolade. You can read more about Richard and the other two Rice faculty who were elected to the AAAS here: [http://engineering.rice.edu/AmericanAcademy2013/](http://engineering.rice.edu/AmericanAcademy2013/).

**Design to Serve the Community**

CAAM senior design team “Kennel Club” appeared before Houston City Council this morning to present the results of their design project. Lilibeth Mata, Katherine, McConachie, James Rigby and Bryan Wigianto developed a simulator to improve the operations of the Houston BARC dog kennel and to reduce the number of dogs that are euthanized. I don’t know if it’s online yet, but their presentation will be available at [http://houstontx.city.swagit.com/](http://houstontx.city.swagit.com/). Congratulations, Team Kennel Club!

**Everybody’s Pitching!**

On Thursday this week there are two events that will showcase engineering students and what they’ve been working on. The **Undergraduate Venture Challenge** starts at 1pm in the Shell Auditorium of McNair Hall. Nine teams of undergraduates will each give an 8-minute pitch for their design project and then they’ll take questions for 4 minutes. Everyone is invited to watch them at work. You need to sign up by tomorrow to attend: [https://oedk.wufoo.com/forms/2013-ruvc-registration/](https://oedk.wufoo.com/forms/2013-ruvc-registration/).

At 4pm, the **GSA Elevator Pitch competition** will begin in McMurtry Auditorium, Duncan Hall. There will be students from disciplines across campus competing but I’m sure that the engineers are going to do us all proud! It would be great to have a huge engineering presence in the crowd to show our support! You can find out more about this event here: [http://graduate.rice.edu/elevatorpitch/](http://graduate.rice.edu/elevatorpitch/). Good luck, engineers!

**Top of the Chart**

People don’t put much store in rankings these days and that’s usually for good reason. However, a group out of the Netherlands recently released their assessment of the impact of research papers and Rice came out really well. The Leiden rankings look at the scientific performance of 500 major universities around the world, basing their results on the influence of research publications. They put **Rice University at the absolute top of their list**.
(we’re #1!!) and engineering had a lot to do with that. You can read more about the rankings and see who we bested here: http://engineering.rice.edu/NewsContent.aspx?id=8589935647.

Innovate Challenge All Star Event

The final Innovate Challenge was a week ago Friday but we didn’t get the results until last week. Congratulations to Ting Cui and Tung Nguyen, both ChBE majors and Kevin Lin, CS, who built the best rubber band-powered car and took away the prize! It is beyond clear that the OEDK has a winner in the Innovate Challenge, so it will be back in the fall!

Seed funding: Call for Proposals

The Kennedy Institute for Information Technology is calling for proposals for its Enriching Rice through Information Technology Seed Funding program (ERIT). Faculty, if you have a project you’d like to launch with the idea of getting more funding after you get it going, this is your chance to do that. See http://erit.rice.edu for more information and to submit a proposal. They’re due June 11, 2013.

Be in the Know!

Students, if you’re interested in keeping up with what’s happening in engineering around the country, you should subscribe to the ASEE’s Accelerator. It’s a monthly newsletter especially for engineering students. The American Society for Engineering Education is a respected and influential organization that promotes excellence in engineering education—and their newsletter is interesting! Sample the Accelerator here: http://blog.engineeringstudents.org/.

Last week I announced the winner of this year’s Hardy Bourland Award, Julie Kudelka, of BIOE. You can read more about Julie’s time at Rice and how she earned this award here: http://engineering.rice.edu/kudelka/.

Here are this week’s events:

TUESDAY
Ken Kennedy Institute for Information Technology
Shared Computer Training
2 p.m. in Ryon Lab, Ryon Engineering Bldg
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=20231

WEDNESDAY
Institute of Biosciences and Bioengineering
Commercialize It!
2 p.m. in 172 BRC
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=20251

STAT
End-of-Semester Party
2:30 p.m. in the portico of Duncan Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=20254

THURSDAY
RCEL
4th Annual Rice Undergraduate Venture Challenge
12:30 p.m. Shell Auditorium, McNair Hall
http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?EventRecord=19595

GSA Elevator Pitch Competition
4pm in McMurtry Auditorium, Duncan Hall
http://graduate.rice.edu/elevatorpitch/

We’re really on the home stretch now – push, push, push.
Then relax!

Ned

Edwin L. Thomas
William and Stephanie Sick Dean of Engineering