Rensselaer President Shirley Ann Jackson and three of our leading scientists and engineers have just completed their “IdeasLab” presentation at the World Economic Forum out in Davos, Switzerland. They were invited there to talk about taking concepts from the university setting into commercial arenas. We thought we’d share a few photos. They also had the pleasure of spending time with Ecovative CEO and co-founder Eben Bayer, a Rensselaer alumnus, as he signed a new contract with Sealed Air Corp. Ecovative was incubated at Rensselaer.

At the IdeasLab, attending were Claire and Roland Schmitt Distinguished Professor of Computer Science Boleslaw Szymanski, President Jackson, Robert W. Hunt Professor of Materials Science and Engineering Dick Siegel, National University of Singapore President and session moderator Chorh Chuan Tan, and Howard P. Isermann Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering Jonathan Dordick.

Bolek Szymanski gave two invited presentations to the world economic forum in Davos Switzerland:
Jan 26, Human Dynamics session with co-presenters L. Barabasi (Northeastern) and S. Page (Michigan)
Jan 27, RPI IdeasLab with co-presenters: President Jackson, J. Dordick and D. Siegel


Rensselaer Professor Kim Lewis Receives NSF Career Award

Kim Lewis, Assistant Professor of Physics, Applied Physics, and Astronomy has won a prestigious Faculty Early Career Development Award (CAREER) from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Lewis will use the five-year, approximately $575,000 award to study electronics at the molecular level. The research seeks to better understand how molecules are transported through advanced electronic systems.

“I congratulate Dr. Lewis on this exceptional achievement, the first-ever NSF CAREER Award in the Department of Physics, Applied Physics, and Astronomy at Rensselaer” said Laurie Leshin, dean of the School of Science at Rensselaer. “This award will continue to enable the innovative nanoscience research and outstanding educational opportunities that Dr. Lewis has been deeply committed to since she joined Rensselaer. This recognition is clearly well deserved.”

http://news.rpi.edu/update.do?artcenterkey=2988
Rensselaer Research Vice President Francine Berman Appointed Co-Chair As National Academy Of Sciences Board On Research Data And Information

Francine Berman, co-chair, vice president for research, professor of computer science, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute was appointed to the board and named Co-Chair.

The Board on Research Data and Information (BRDI) of the National Academy of Sciences announces a slate of new Board members, selected from a broad array of universities, organizations, and companies. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Vice President-Research Francine Berman was named a co-chair. The goal of BRDI is to improve the stewardship, policy, and use of digital data and information for science and the broader society. The group plays a leading role in researching and then suggesting policy and other solutions for preserving for future generations the massive amounts of digital content generated by scientific research and other activities. http://news.rpi.edu/update.do?artcenterkey=2987

G.-C. Wang, professor of physics gave an invited seminar entitled: “Physical Self-Assembly of Nanostructures Using Shadowing Growth” at the Chemistry Department, Iowa State University on Jan. 20, 2012.

Conference Session To Honor Jim Ferris

The organizing committee of the Astrobiology Science Conference (AbSciCon 2012), which is to be held in Atlanta, Georgia during April 16-20, 2012, has dedicated a special session to honor the scientific contribution of Dr. James P. Ferris, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry. All the details are available in the web site: http://abscicon2012.arc.nasa.gov/

RESEARCH NEWS and NOTES

Computer Scientist To Bring Programming and Aviation Know - How Together To Create Safer Flight Systems

Carlos Varela, Associate Professor of Computer Science

Grant From U.S. Air Force To Support New Research Out of Rensselaer Data Science Research Center

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute computer scientist Carlos Varela has received seed funding from the U.S. Air Force to help make flight data as updated, active, and accurate as possible. Varela, part of the Data Science Research Center at Rensselaer, will use the more than $100,000 grant to develop sophisticated
computer logic programming to help create safer and more efficient flight technology. The grant is part of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) Dynamic Data-Driven Application Systems (DDDAS) program.

http://news.rpi.edu/update.do?artcenterkey=2983

STUDENT NEWS and NOTES

Lorena Valentin, senior in Information Technology and Web Science, is going to work for Cisco when she graduates. The project that received the award was started and organized by my MITR team Effective Solutions, including Bill Wenrich, Steve DiPalermo, Michael Villeneuve, and Lorena; and it was supported, implemented and completed by the Latin America IT team (also known as LatAm IT) composed by Diego Barrozo, Yandhira Rosillo, Sandra Fiorentini and Director Ileana Rivera.

As requested these are the pictures of the Team Spotlight award I received at the CITS (Connected IT Services) Quarterly FY’12 Q2 All Hands meeting presented by the V.P. of Information Technology, Guillermo Diaz in San Jose, CA on January 19th, 2012.

Cisco Systems Inc. is a multinational corporation headquartered in San Jose, CA that designs and sells consumer electronics, networking, voice, and communications technology and services. Founded in 1984, Cisco has more than 70,000 employees and annual revenue of US $40.0 billion as of 2010. In the last few years, Cisco has expanded its business to emerging markets such as Latin America, Europe, Japan, among many others. The company decided to add the Latin America Region, also known as LATAM, as an
emerging market in 2006. The Region has successfully expanded to a total of approximately 1600 users in 12 countries, including powerful countries such as Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Chile.

Because there are currently three Information Technology (IT) managers in the LATAM region, keeping up with all the IT operations, processes and support of all 1600 users has become a challenge. The IT Mobility process was a specific area in which Cisco’s LATAM IT identified a need for improvement. The IT Mobile Provision Process is followed to provide a corporate device and/or plan to a new user. This process was executed by managers with informal requests and lacked a centralized place for documentation; the user had no visibility to the process and was not engaged; and there was no alignment of information flow among the IT team. In addition, due to the lack of a centralized place for information, important updates and policies regarding IT Mobility were only shared with users via email.

To address the business need, Team Effective Solutions (MITR group) agreed to implement an Information Technology solution separated into two milestones. The first milestone included to incorporate EMAN, an automated mobile provision system, into the LATAM’s IT Mobile Provision Process. This solution provided major improvement in three areas: User Experience, Request Documentation, and IT Support. The second milestone was to develop a Wiki that served as a centralized place for IT Mobility Services information, to enhance the Mobile Provision Process’ user experience.

The information provided on the Wiki was then transposed by Lorena Valentin into Cisco’s internal collaboration space known as IWE (Integrated Workforce Experience). Users are now able to access a self-served automated process to order a phone/service.

The project received the Team Spotlight award at the CITS (Connected IT Services) Quarterly FY’12 Q2 All Hands meeting presented by the V.P. of Information Technology, Guillermo Diaz in San Jose, CA on January 19th, 2012.