Dear Past, Present, and Potential Rodman Scholars,

First of all, we would like to extend a warm welcome to our new first year students who were admitted into the program at the end of the Fall 2006 semester. We hope you are enjoying the program thus far!

Over the past ten months, the program has expanded in a way not seen for quite a while. Our former president, John Gregory, reinstated the Rodman Scholars Council with the goal of making the Rodman name more familiar to prospective students, members of industry, and the University of Virginia community. The council has been working diligently the last two semesters to not only increase our name recognition, but also expand the benefits associated with the program. This newsletter is one of the preliminary steps we are taking to increase the visibility of our program. Be on the lookout for a newsletter each semester from now on!

One of the largest projects of the past several months has been the renovation of the Rodman Scholars webpage. We would like to thank Ranjan Khan for designing the beautiful site (visit it at http://www.seas.virginia.edu/rodman/), which we hope will facilitate current students and alumni staying informed about the program.

Rodman Council has planned some exciting future programming events! We will be holding a Rodman Bar Night this semester (the date is TBD), and April 10th marks the date for our annual Dome Room Dinner. In the fall, we will be holding the First Annual Rodman Semi-Formal. We are also looking to increase our presence in the community – our new Community Service Chair Katie Youell has already organized a Rodman team for Relay for Life on April 21st and a Qdoba night for charity that is planned for the end of the semester. Watch your e-mail for more information about these events as the dates get closer.

We are very excited about the future of the Rodman program, but our excitement alone is not enough to sustain the development of the Rodman Scholars into a recognized and respected community. Without continuing student interest and alumni support, “Rodman” will dissolve into little more than a word on our transcripts. This first newsletter should give you a taste of what Rodman Scholars are doing in the world around you, so we encourage you to get involved and help this program continue to thrive and grow.

Thanks and have a great semester,
Christina Stamper and Matt Fifer
Rodman Co-Presidents

Dear Rodmans:

I have made the difficult decision to leave the Engineering School and enter the McIntire School of Commerce. As such, I would like to resign from my post as President of the Rodman Scholars Program. Fortunately, however, leadership of the program will temporarily transfer into the very capable hands of the two vice presidents, Matthew Fifer and Christina Stamper, who will take over as Acting Co-Presidents.

Thank you for your understanding,
John Gregory
Second-year Rodman student Jack McKay sat down for a chat with his boss at the Naval Research Lab, Brad Pinney, a former Rodman Scholar. Pinney, who works in the Digital Signal Processing section of the Space Systems branch at the Naval Research Lab, graduated in May, 2004, with a major in Electrical Engineering and a minor in Computer Science. He lives in Arlington, VA and is currently attending Johns Hopkins University, getting his Masters in Electrical Engineering.

Q: How did the Rodman program help you?
A: Several of my closest friends came from the Rodman program. I found that building networks through the Rodman program has served me well in a number of ways after graduation.

Q: Favorite UVA football game (when you were a student)
A: UVA beating Tech in C'ville my fourth year.

Q: If you didn't go to UVA, you would have gone to
A: Either Penn State or Clemson.

Q: Your favorite professor was:
A: In the e-school: Gabe Robins (for CS202) Outside of the e-school: John Portman, for a couple classes in the religion department.

Q: Stacks or Lawn?
A: Who enjoyed the stacks? Lawn all the way.

Q: Old dorms or new dorms?
A: There were old dorms?

Q: Guys in ties, girls in pearls or Sea of Orange?
A: I hate the sea of orange. Hate it. Sea of Formalwear.

Q: Honor code policy: single sanction or multiple sanctions?
A: Single sanction, no question. The honor system, and the university as a whole, would suffer irreparably if we moved away from a single sanction. If you do something severe enough to be found guilty of an honor violation, you shouldn't be in the community of trust. I believe in the honor system.

**Perspective: through the eyes of an aviation enthusiast**

By: Ian Czekala

Every July Oshkosh, Wisconsin and its sleepy airport are transformed into a home for F-16 jets, WWII fighters, biplanes, stunt planes, ultralights, helicopters and every type of home-built aircraft imaginable. The Experimental Aviation Association (EAA) has focused on providing a forum for all those interested in aviation since its founding in 1953 by Steve Poberenzy. Its yearly fly-in convention quickly grew into much more than just a gathering and today is one of the greatest aviation events and the world's largest annual convention of any kind. Last summer I traveled out to Oshkosh with my father along with the more than 750,000 aviation enthusiasts in order to get a taste of aircraft-mania.

Throughout AirVenture, over 500 forums and seminars on topics ranging from piloting the U2 spy plane to barnstorming are hosted by NASA researchers, aircraft designers, and aviation enthusiasts. Some of the most crowded seminars were those hosted by experimental aviation celebrity Burt Rutan. Among Burt Rutan's many aviation accomplishments are the design of the Voyager, the first plane to fly non-stop non-refueled around the world, and his SpaceShipOne.

I managed to get into Rutan's seminar on the future of private space-flight, where he gave a detailed account of the SpaceShipOne flights that claimed the Ansari X prize. Rutan has taken a profound step forward in the potentially lucrative space tourism industry. Even without a commercial spacecraft in production, over 20 space ports are already under construction worldwide. Cont. Pg 3
Perspective continued

Cont. from Pg. 2. It’s not uncommon to see parked along the airstrip any type of military aircraft ranging from F-14s, B1 Bombers, to U2 spy planes, along with their respective pilot surrounded by a throng of enthralled people just itching to get a question in. It is inspiring to see these lethal aircraft up close while receiving firsthand details of what it’s like to fly one from the military pilot that flies them.

Nearly every day there is an afternoon fly-by of anything new and exciting, from the military’s F-22 Stealth Raptor fighter to a new passenger jet. When three of the military’s new F-22 Raptors came screaming in overhead the convention, swooped into a vertical climb for over thirty seconds before stopping in mid-air, and began a series of gut-wrenching aerobatic maneuvers, an involuntary sense of awe and fear coalesced in my stomach; I would certainly not want to be on the receiving end of any attack from these fighters.

EAA’s AirVenture is a remarkable event that offers something for everyone that has even a mild curiosity about flight. I encourage anyone interested, especially current Rodmans, to make the trip and get an amazing survey of the current state of commercial, private, and military aircraft; meet the endless amount of aviation enthusiasts from across the country and the world, and to get to see the air show of a lifetime.

As a potential Aerospace Engineer, I know that attending the convention helped broaden my understanding of the field of aviation and strengthen my decision in my career path. The trip to Oshkosh is a pilgrimage every aviation enthusiast should make at least once in a lifetime.

First-year Rodmans tackle foggy futures and icy roads

**Odyssey: An Overview**
- submitted by Rahul Gorawara

Many engineering students are not informed about their possible career paths and do not effectively use their resources in college to prepare themselves for their lives as professionals.

The goal of the Odyssey project is to curb the effects of this problem by allowing current engineering students to access career guidance information from U.Va. engineering alumni. It is our hope that through this program, engineering students will be able to make more informed choices earlier within their college careers.

The mission statement of Odyssey is to create an interactive web community that will foster career-related communication between alumni and Rodman students.

**Icy roads: An Overview**
- submitted by Will Jacobs

Ice on sidewalks and driveways causes personal injury and inconvenience. Preventing ice from forming is usually labor intensive and difficult. On a small scale, it is possible to remove most ice and snow by shoveling alone. However, shoveling and scraping ice on uneven sidewalks and steep driveways can be prohibitively difficult for many individuals. Some consumers are also deterred by the hassle and side-effects of spreading salt to prevent ice from forming. By addressing this problem, our group will develop a solution that prevents ice on these surfaces with little difficulty for the consumer, making shoveling after snowfall much easier. More specifically, our mission statement is to design and build a personal anti-icing application device that can be easily used by one person and effectively distributes the salt mixture over domestic surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways.

Although similar to programs such as HoosOnline and Vault, Odyssey differs in that it gives the students and alumni a more personal connection. The Odyssey philosophy posits that generic career advice does little to foster professional development on the individual level. As such, the focus of the project is to offer individual-specific advice from alumni who have similar academic, professional, extracurricular, and social backgrounds/interests.
By: Matt Fifer

On November 8th and 9th, 2006, some of the world’s greatest scientific minds traveled to New York City to speak to an audience of corporate leaders about the business implications of technological innovations in the near and distant future.

The World Science Forum, a two-day conference with 14 speakers and several hundred audience members, was hosted by HSM Corporation with the goal of educating the nation’s financial decision-makers about how they should be utilizing the global knowledge pool and appealing to even the world’s poorest consumers. Three Rodman Scholars and three Echols Scholars, each of whom was sponsored by their respective school, attended the conference.

For a few Scholars, this was their first time in New York City, and after arriving a day early to Manhattan, the group of six took some time to look around. After a day and night spent traversing the skyscraper-lined city streets, the students got up early the next morning to secure good seats for the first day’s lectures. The Rodmans were fortunate enough to sit in the row just behind the speakers, who frequently leaned back to share an insight or two on the points made by the man or woman at the podium.

Each speaker at the Forum was a renowned expert in his or her field, and the topics of their presentations ranged from Nanotechnology to Artificial Intelligence to Global Warming. Scientists, economists, and corporate research gurus pointed out problems that would need solving in tomorrow’s world and highlighted how today’s innovators had engineered solutions to similar problems.

C.K. Prahalad, the bookend speaker from the University of Michigan who introduced the conference and discussed his key takeaways at the end, used India as an example of a place where it is necessary to solve huge problems with limited resources. He drew on the conference speakers’ insights to show that the business world is approaching an environment where everyone has input into the design process, and products are customizable to the specific needs of the individual consumer.

Students left the conference with a better understanding of the sources of innovation and how the private sector draws on scientific knowledge to create value. For a complete list of who spoke and links to the PowerPoint presentations from the conference, go to: http://www.hsm-us.com/wsf/index.html.

Students in the Engineering School, and especially Rodman Scholars, have access to a great deal of financial resources that can be used to help students learn their trade outside the confines of Charlottesville. If the idea of traveling across the country to hear some of the world’s brightest minds appeals to you, the Rodman Scholars Program encourages you to take the initiative to research these opportunities and the methods of financing such a trip.

The World Science Forum is held every year in November, and HSM also sponsors a World Business Forum with speakers such as Alan Greenspan and Al Gore every October. If either of these opportunities appeals to you, contact Christina Stamper (cjs3b@virginia.edu) or Matt Fifer (msf3r@virginia.edu) for more information.
Motivating through De-motivators

2006 Rodman Teacher Award Winner Aaron Bloomfield

By: Megan Bell

Aaron Bloomfield is an assistant professor in the Computer Science department. He joined the University in the fall of 2004.

Professor Bloomfield received his undergraduate degree at SUNY Stony Brook in New York and his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

His research at the University includes computer science education and computer graphics, specifically virtual reality and haptics (integrating the sense of touch into virtual reality).

Besides computer science, he enjoys martial arts, ballroom and swing dancing, brewing beer and outdoors activities. His students know him for playing music as people are settling into their seats, and for giving students lecture breaks by presenting De-motivators. This spring, he is teaching CS101 Intro to Computing and CS 202 Discrete Math.
The Rodman Scholars Program is the honors program for the University of Virginia School of Engineering and Applied Science. Founded in 1979, it is dedicated to the development of the skills that will be most beneficial to engineering students both during and after college. Each year, approximately 35 first year students are admitted to the program, based on both their academic achievements and their potential to contribute to the engineering school and the U.Va. community at large. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Program Director Dana Elzey at dme2j@virginia.edu.

’RodChat - The Rodman Newsletter’ is written and compiled by current Rodman students. If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, have ideas for articles to include in the next issue, or would like to join the staff, please contact Vinu Ilakkuvan at vti6d@virginia.edu.

RodChat—The Rodman Newsletter

WE’RE ON THE WEB!
SEAS.VIRGINIA.EDU/RODMAN

Council’s Corner
- compiled by Bobby Arthur

Christina Stamper. Membership Director and Acting Co-President
- helped review first year mid-year applicants and first-year council member applications, monitors GPA standards, works with faculty to better market the program to high school students, and is updating the Rodman Constitution to give the council better structure

Matt Fifer. Technology Chair and Acting Co-President
- working with Ranjan Khan to completely revamp the Rodman Website (in design and content) worked to create the current Sustainability RodSem, looking to broaden the brainstorming and decision making process of council meetings by opening them to all Rodman Scholars, and is involved in planning social events.

Justin Starr. RodSem Chair
- involved in organizing classes that cover subjects that deviate from the typical Engineering curriculum (using feedback from Scholars, arranges these special classes in subjects such as Russian History, and a yearly favorite, Beer Brewing)

Chris Heywood. Treasurer
- helps organize and allocate Rodman funds to different sections of the program (money is divided between RodSems, the first year Design Project, social events, and other activities), and along with other council members, working to increase funding for the Rodman Program and provide more benefits to all Rodman Scholars.

Katie Youell. Service Chair
- looking to organize community service events (her ideas include Relay for Life and Qdoba Night, but she welcomes other suggestions)

Frankie Wolf. First-year Representative and Historian
- helping organize Rodman Social Events and keeping record of various Rodman events.

- helped develop the idea for the Rodman Newsletter, and has been working to put it together.

Bobby Arthur. First-year Rep
- could be considered the Rodman Council member at large and has been involved with the newsletter.