

Ph.D. Candidate Rob Damitz wins the "What's Your Big Idea" Business Plan Competition

Ph.D. Candidate Rob Damitz, along with two fellow Gator Engineers, were awarded the grand prize of \$25,000 as winners of the "What's Your Big Idea" Business Plan Competition on Friday, April 25th. The competition was organized by the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Warrington College of Business Administration and was open to all UF students. Over 140 business plans were submitted for the inaugural competition.

According to water.org, over 780 million people lack access to clean drinking water. Rob's company, aqUV, is developing a potential solution to this global issue: a water bottle which contains a UV light powered by a twist crank to sterilize water. Their solution provides clean drinking water without the need for expensive filters or batteries and is designed for use in developing nations or disaster relief. aqUV also believes their solution will be popular with outdoors activities such as camping, hiking, or hunting.

Rob's interest in water purification began when he developed a water purification and meal preparation system for the U.S. Military at Mainstream Engineering Corp. in Rockledge, FL. He along with Mechanical Aerospace Engineering Ph.D. candidate **Daniel Blood** and Environmental Engineering Sciences Master's student Erica Gonzaga developed their innovation during an Entrepreneurship for Engineers course in 2013. Erica has several years of experience researching UV light for water treatment, and Daniel has volunteered for medical missions to Haiti for over 10 years. With their combined experience, they believe they can make a difference providing clean drinking water across the globe.

With the \$25,000 award, aqUV hopes to develop and test their prototypes. The first batch of working prototypes will be donated to a Haitian orphanage.

For more information, please email aquv.bottles@gmail.com.



Former student wins Engineering Excellence Award at LSU

Miami native Aaron Harrington received the 2013-2014 Clayton Engineering Excellence Award for Outstanding Graduate Students from the LSU College of Engineering.

Harrington is earning his doctorate degree in chemical engineering and a minor in petroleum engineering while researching simulations of in-situ upgrading and conversion process of shale oil formations, and mechanisms of heat reflux and condensation in the formation wellbore. Harrington earned his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Florida. He currently serves as president of the Chemical Engineering Graduate Student Association and wants to live a life revolved around study and discovery.

The Clayton Engineering Excellence Award for Outstanding Graduate Student is granted each year to an outstanding graduate student(s) who exhibits extraordinary character, scholastic achievement and evident leadership in the College of Engineering. This award entails a stipend of \$10,000 to the recipient and a \$2,000 stipend to the graduate student's principal advisor/faculty member.

Donald W. Clayton (BS PETE, 1959) was inducted into the College of Engineering Hall of Distinction in 1993. He and Gloria Pichon Clayton founded the awards in 2004 with a generous donation.



Dr. Mark Orazem to Deliver Plenary Lecture

Professor Orazem will deliver a plenary lecture at the 7th International Workshop on Impedance Spectroscopy (IWIS) to be held in Chemnitz, Germany, from 24-26 September 2014. He will discuss "Challenges for Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy." He will also present a Tutorial on "Understanding the Error Structure of Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy Measurements."



Congratulations Dr. Fan Ren

Dr. Fan Ren has been chosen to receive one of the two UF Foundation Term professorship awards for 2013-14.



Rich Dickinson honored with Distinguished Alumnus Award by the Univ. of Washington

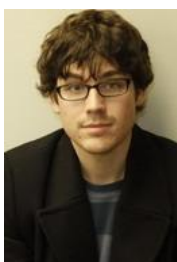
The Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Washington, Seattle has selected Rich Dickinson for the 2014 R. Wells Moulton Distinguished Alumnus Award. Since 1993, the award has been given to alumni

who have made exceptional contributions in engineering industry, faculty service in academia, and government, public or volunteer service. Congratulations Rich!



ChE Undergraduate Earns 1st Place in Paper Competition

Paul Rosenberger, ChE senior, earned first place in the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC) student paper competition. Paul was secondary author on the paper entitled, "Titanium Dioxide Mediated Photocatalytic Degradation of Methylene Blue in a Fixed Film Type Photoreactor." The paper will be officially published in the AATCC Journal of Research.



NASA Research Grant Awarded to Professor Jiang and Collaborators

A multidisciplinary team led by Prof. Peng Jiang (ChE) has won a research grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to develop novel broadband antireflection (AR) coatings on silicon refractive optics. This novel coating technology is inspired by the periodic nanostructures found on the cornea of a moth's eye. The final AR coatings can significantly reduce optical reflection from silicon refractive optics over a wide range of wavelengths and incident angles, promising for boosting the detection sensitivity of instruments for NASA's future space and airborne missions. The broadband moth-eye AR coatings can also be used in a spectrum of technological applications ranging from high-efficiency solar cells to bright displays. Prof. Jian Ge at UF Department of Astronomy is the co-investigator of this project.



Former student becomes faculty member in Korea

Jiyeon Lee, a recent PhD graduate from the department has become a faculty member in Korea Institute of Science and Technology. Her research area is in Nano-biotechnology. Congratulations!

