

University invited alumni and friends to join in celebrating the school's many accomplishments and its exciting plans for the future. This event also served as the commencement of the school's first-ever fund-raising campaign, the "2010 Campaign." Through this campaign, George Mason aims to raise more than \$20 million in private funds by June 2010. This funding will enable the School of Information Technology and Engineering to continue its path of national prominence and leadership and to create new programs in the area of information technology in the biosciences including bio-informatics, bio-technology, and bio-engineering.

Led by Dean Lloyd Griffiths, George Mason's School of Information Technology and Engineering is the first engineering school in the United States to focus on information technology rather than the traditional engineering science, and is also the first engineering school to offer a doctoral program in information technology. It was also one of the first engineering schools in the country to be named as a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education by the National Security Agency and the White House Complex. Additional research areas of expertise within the School of Information Technology and Engineering include genetic algorithms, robotics, learning agents, air transportation, infrastructure protection, and data visualization.

Indeed, while many other colleges are experiencing a decrease in engineering enrollments, student enrollment at George Mason's School of Information Technology and Engineering continues to grow. To compliment the increase in enrollment, George Mason University has committed to raising the quality of the program to an even greater degree by making changes such as hiring a substantial number of new faculty members, leveraging research and donor funding, and enhancing its participation in high school mentorship programs, among others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending and congratulating George Mason University's School of Information Technology and Engineering on 20 years of excellence. I look forward to applauding its continued growth and success for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF EDITH ROBLES

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Edith Rocio Robles, a dedicated and intelligent woman whom I was fortunate to have served as my Communications Director from September 2001 through August 2005. During her tenure in my office I greatly valued Edith's strong communication skills.

Edith joined my office in 2001 as my Press Secretary. Edith quickly assumed her role as Press Secretary. Edith's strong public relations skills and knowledge of the press, particularly Spanish media, made her a valuable member of my staff and gained her the admiration of her colleagues. In 2002, I promoted Edith to the role of Communications Director in recognition of her hard work and invaluable help to my office.

As a grass-roots oriented Member of Congress, I take great pride in my office's extensive efforts to communicate with my constituents in the 32nd Congressional District about how the Federal Government can be of assistance to them and about the work I'm doing in Congress to improve their lives. As Communications Director, Edith played a critical role in this effort, strengthening my office's working relationships with members of the press and local community activists and overseeing my office's mail outreach program.

While I am sad to see Edith leave, I am confident that the future will bring her great success. I wish Edith and her family good health and wishes. I join my staff in Washington, DC, El Monte and East Los Angeles offices in wishing Edith the best of luck in all of her future endeavors. Buena suerte Edith!

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD E.
SMALLEY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of one of our nation's greatest minds. Last week, the scientific world and the nanotechnology community in particular lost a giant. Dr. Richard Smalley, the Nobel Prize-winning nanotechnology researcher, died after a long battle with cancer at age 62. Professor Smalley shared the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1996 for discovering the C₆₀ molecule, a soccer ball-shaped form of carbon called buckminsterfullerene.

A professor in the physics and chemistry departments at Rice University, he was the founding director of the Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology at Rice and was director of the Carbon Nanotechnology Laboratory.

It is hard to overstate the role Dr. Smalley played in founding and fostering the development of nanotechnology, one of the most important and exciting new areas of scientific inquiry to arise in the past quarter century. The discovery of fullerenes is one of the earliest and most influential discoveries in the development of nanotechnology. Dr. James Heath, one of his former graduate students on the buckyball discovery who has become a leading nanotechnology researcher himself, described Dr. Smalley as "a Moses for the field. Without a Moses, there's no trip to the promised land."

Dr. Smalley was a key player in the development of the United States' National Nanotechnology Initiative, launched in 2000. His testimony on Capitol Hill, where he spoke about the promise of nanotechnology for treating cancer and other diseases even as he battled the disease himself, made a deep impression on policymakers.

In recent years, Dr. Smalley was an ardent supporter of commercial development of nanotechnology, helping to found Carbon Nanotechnologies Inc. to make sure his discoveries made it to the marketplace where they could benefit society. He was also a scientific adviser to biotech startup C Sixty, which is investigating the use of fullerenes for pharmaceutical applications.

In 2002, Dr. Smalley embarked upon a crusade to promote the use of nanotechnology to

solve what he described as the No. 1 problem facing humanity in the 21st century—the need for cheap, clean energy. Smalley crisscrossed the country, gave dozens of keynote addresses, testified before Congress and met with countless government, academic and industrial leaders. Some of his friends and colleagues have said that they thought he fought so hard against his disease so that he could one day see nanotechnology deliver the societal benefits in clean energy that he so passionately believed in.

Citizens of the world were fortunate to have Rick Smalley, and will certainly benefit from his discoveries. We owe it to him to continue his efforts to use nanotechnology to solve the need for cheap, clean energy. As ranking member of the Science Committee's Energy Subcommittee, I intend to do what I can to honor Dr. Smalley's memory and continue his good work.

IN HONOR OF THE FRIENDSHIP
FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN
VIETNAMESE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese, as leaders and members of the Foundation unite with the Cleveland community in celebration of the grand opening of the Sai Gon Plaza Community Center.

The Community Center, located at the intersection of West 54th and Detroit Avenue in Cleveland in Ohio's 10th Congressional District, was made possible through the determination, conviction and energy of its founder, Ms. Gia Hoa Ryan, who also serves as the executive director of the Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese.

The Sai Gon Plaza Community Center promises to exist as a vital source of Vietnamese culture and Asian culture, wherein a strong foundation of cultural preservation and intercultural exchange is established. This Center, reflecting the rich cultural diversity of Cleveland, will unite citizens of Asian heritage and will serve as a cultural gathering place for people from all international backgrounds. Also included as part of the Center will be a dedication to the people and neighborhoods surrounding the Center. The Center will also showcase a museum and exhibition center, which will be home to the Asian-American Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Ms. Gia Hoa Ryan, Executive Director of the Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese. Ms. Ryan's tireless work and focused vision, supported by the work and efforts of countless members of Cleveland's Vietnamese community and many others, have created a Community Center where bridges of culture will transcend language, time and distance, preserving and promoting the ancient cultural and historical traditions of Vietnamese culture—a culture that spirals back throughout the centuries, connecting the old world to the new, spanning oceans and borders—from Vietnam to America.