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October 20, 2005

**Section:** BUSINESS

**Page:** D1

**R&D Magazine to honor UA dean**  
*David Wichner, ARIZONA DAILY STAR*

CORRECTION RAN OCTOBER 22, 2005 A2

Wyko Corp. was misspelled Thursday in a column on D1.

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TECH FILE

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Dean Jim Wyant of the UA's College of Optical Sciences is being awarded the Tom Brown Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award today at the IdeaFunding seminar for entrepreneurs.

To understand why, one need only look at some other honors being handed out later today, 1,700 miles away.

Tonight in Chicago, R&D Magazine will formally hand out its 2005 R&D 100 awards, which honor "the most technologically significant products introduced into the marketplace." Wyant helped launch three of the four Tucson-based companies that won the so-called "Oscars of invention."

Wyant co-founded R&D 100 winner 4D Technology Corp. in 2002, after selling another optics instrument firm he founded, Wyco Corp., to Veeco Instruments in 1997. Building on Wyco's legacy operation, Veeco's Tucson operation is another R&D 100 honoree.

Wyant is an expert in interferometers, devices that can precisely measure surfaces using the interference properties of light waves. Veeco sells interferometers that still bear the Wyco brand.

4D specializes in vibration-proof interferometers, which can be used to measure moving or vibrating parts, large optics, flat panel displays and DVD pickup heads, for example.

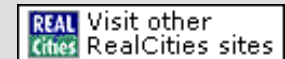
Wyant also is a founding director of another Tucson-based R&D 100 winner, DMetrix Inc., a maker of a multiple-lens microscope system for super-high resolution imaging.

"I'd have to say I'm pretty proud of that," Wyant said of the R&D awards, which were announced a few months ago in advance of tonight's ceremony.

Wyant said he didn't know much about the IdeaFunding award but was happy to get an award named for the late Tom Brown, an electronics pioneer who founded Burr-Brown Corp.



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"I hope this influences some of our students to think about doing their own companies when they graduate," he said.

Bob **Breault**, chairman of **Breault** Research Organization, noted that Wyant's innovations in interferometry have made the manufacturing high-quality silicon semiconductors easier and cheaper.

Academic entrepreneurs like Wyant can help drive economic development, said Larry Hecker, chairman of IdeaFunding and a longtime local corporate attorney.

"He's sort of the poster child for what we can accomplish as a community in the area of economic development," Hecker said of Wyant.

Still room at event

IdeaFunding 2005 has attracted 180 registrants, up from about 125 last year, but there's still room at the event, Hecker said. You can show up at the door today for the daylong seminar for entrepreneurs on how to fund startup companies. Registration opens at 8 a.m. and the program begins at 8:45 a.m. at Manning House, 450 W. Paseo Redondo. The cost is \$75, including lunch; students pay \$35 with lunch, \$15 for the program only.

Drug trial launched

UA cancer-drug spinoff Amplimed Corp. announced Wednesday it has begun enrolling patients in a new clinical trial to evaluate its lead candidate, Amplimexon, in combination with the drug docetaxel (sold by Aventis Pharmaceuticals as Taxotere), in patients with lung, breast and prostate cancer who haven't been helped by conventional therapy for their disease.

The Phase I clinical trial is being conducted at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. About 30 patients are expected to be enrolled over the next year in a study lasting a year to 16 months.

Earlier this week, the New York-based venture capital fund InvestBio said it had completed a \$2.3 million investment in Amplimed, enabling the drug company to conclude a \$6 million private placement of preferred stock.

\* Send news about technology-based businesses to David Wichner, Business, Arizona Daily Star, P.O. Box 26807, Tucson, AZ 85726; fax to 573-4144; or e-mail to [dwichner@azstarnet.com](mailto:dwichner@azstarnet.com).

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