WHEN T. ROWE PRICE, the global investment management firm headquartered in Baltimore, went looking for qualified college seniors for its highly competitive two-year Investment Fellowship Program, it did not have to go far. The firm came to the Whiting School of Engineering.

This June, Eric Chu ’06 and Prashant Jey ’06, both of whom majored in Biomedical Engineering, begin their careers at T. Rowe Price as two of the four Fellows hired nationally to take part in this prestigious program.

T. Rowe Price recruiters recognize that engineers excel at analyzing complex issues and developing innovative solutions to problems, and the firm appreciates that these abilities are honed in the Whiting School’s classrooms and labs.

Although Chu and Jey may have spent much of the past four years studying topics such as the “reactive oxygen species’ effect on myocardial cells” and the “micro-fluidic system for assembly and culture of multi-cellular tumor spheroids,” they also were gaining the kinds of skills that are both applicable and highly desirable across a broad range of disciplines. Working in the firm’s “investment front office” areas on a rotation schedule, the two recent graduates are gaining professional experience in areas including portfolio analysis, trading, risk management, asset allocation, and financial modeling.

Chu explains that ever since he was in high school, he knew he wanted to work in business and finance. When he heard about the fellowship program at T. Rowe Price, he applied immediately. “There are clear connections between the work I’ve done as a Biomedical Engineering student and the work I’ll be doing in my new job,” he states. “I think Engineering students here have a really strong work ethic and are able to juggle many demands. Also, like financial analysts, engineers do a lot of work with modeling and numeric computations. Modeling DNA formations of proteins and modeling financial markets and bonds are actually not that different.” Chu hopes that during his fellowship, he can take part in rotations that involve biotechnology and medical instrumentation and put to use his considerable knowledge in these fields.

Jey, too, recognizes that the skills he learned as an Engineering student will serve him well in his new job. “In fact,” he says, “I was kind of stunned by how similar the types of problems they showed me during my interview were to the work I’ve done in class. I have strong analytical skills and a good understanding of modeling.” Like Chu, he believes that his specific knowledge of biomedical issues—from its basic concepts to a familiarity with its language—will enable him to better evaluate biomedical companies.

In April, representatives from T. Rowe Price returned to campus to participate in a networking program that included a dinner and the chance to speak with students about fellowships and internships. Sholeh Dadressan, the firm’s corporate recruiter who met with the students, observes, “We were very impressed by the caliber of the Johns Hopkins students, are excited to welcome the two JHU Fellows, and look forward to building a long and successful partnership with the school.” — Abby Lattes

“Modeling DNA formations of proteins and modeling financial markets and bonds are actually not that different.” —Eric Chu ’06

WHERE ENERGY COMPANIES FIND ENERGETIC NEW HIRES

IN EARLY MARCH, representatives from Shell Oil, Baltimore Gas & Electric, and Constellation Energy came to the Homewood campus to hold employment informational sessions for undergraduates.

“We had a good turn-out,” says Lani Hummel, director of the Office of Industrial Initiatives at the Whiting School of Engineering. Students enjoyed meeting with representatives from the companies’ human resources, research, and operations departments. After listening to presentations about employment opportunities, the students could speak informally with the representatives, ask questions, and offer their résumés.

Says Hummel, “While companies across the country are paring down their list of schools from which they recruit, they are still coming to Johns Hopkins. They want to meet our students because they know the quality of what our graduates have to offer.”
The Paul Maritz Faculty Innovation Fund in the Whiting School’s Department of Computer Science will support explorations of visionary new research, particularly at the interface of computer science and biology. In March, professors Gregory Hager and S. Rao Kosaraju became the first two faculty members to receive Maritz funding.

Paul Maritz has committed $300,000 to establish the fund. The former Microsoft executive is now involved in numerous high-tech ventures. A member of the Computer Science Visiting Committee, Maritz previously served on the Whiting School’s National Advisory Council. He is the father of Benjamin L. Maritz ’02 B.S., ’03 M.S., who majored in Computer Science and earned his master’s degree in Mathematical Sciences.

With Maritz funding, Hager plans to develop and structure a “terabyte image corpus,” a database of a billion images to create visual representations, related algorithms, and data-driven computational vision. Kosaraju, in collaboration with Johns Hopkins immunology experts, aims to apply his computer science perspective and skills to creating a better understanding of the mechanism of the primary immune reactions and the development of tolerance.

“My goal is to fundamentally advance our understanding of connections between computational vision and computational learning.” — Gregory Hager, Professor of Computer Science

“The Maritz funding permits me to explore an exciting new area of research.” — S. Rao Kosaraju, Edward J. Schaefer Professor of Engineering