

**RICE UNIVERSITY
PROFESSIONAL MASTER'S PROGRAM
NEWSLETTER
Issue 2, Winter 2003**

COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

This is the second issue of the Rice University Professional Master's Program newsletter. Quite a bit has happened over the last few months. I attended the second annual meeting of Professional Science Master's coordinators and visited eight universities in Texas and Florida. Future plans to promote the program include a social event in January and participation in the Offshore Technology Conference in May.

During the next few months, we will be reevaluating the program to confirm that it is meeting the needs and expectations of both students and the science industry. We will interview potential students, all board members, and other industry representatives. We have already received valuable feedback from our current students. Some of their suggestions are being incorporated into the program, such as making business cards available to students, broadening the elective list, and scheduling faculty lunches.

I ask for everyone's continued support as we go through the reevaluation process. Your contribution is vital to improving the value of these degrees.

Sincerely,

Terry L. Pack
Program Coordinator

PROGRAM PROMOTION

Fall Recruiting

Fall recruiting efforts focused on increasing enrollment for the Nanoscale Physics and Subsurface Geoscience tracks. During the months of September and October, Terry Pack visited eight universities: University of Houston, Lamar University, University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M, Houston Baptist University, Florida State University, University of Florida, and University of South Florida. During her visits she gave presentations to approximately 70 undergraduate science students and met with 29 faculty members.

On October 24, Terry participated in the Johnson Space Center Academic Fair. Our program was received with great interest, particularly the Nanoscale Physics track. Approximately eleven people exhibited great interest in part-time enrollment.

On October 6, Terry was accompanied by Dale Sawyer to represent the program at the 6th Annual AAPG /SEG Student Expo, an event linking Geoscience students with industry recruiters. We were encouraged by the number of recruiters who had already

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heard of our program. Our presence helped to increase corporate awareness of the program and attracted corporate representatives as potential students.

January Cocktail Reception

We have mailed approximately 250 formal invitations for the cocktail reception on January 22. All invitees are requested to RSVP at the Professional Master's Program web site. Invitations were sent to executives and recruiters at Houston-based companies involved in oil & gas exploration, environmental issues, and nanotechnology. The reception will serve as a forum to raise corporate awareness of the program, introduce them to our current students, and listen to their input. We hope that this event increases corporate interest in hiring ProfMS students as interns and permanent employees, as well as supporting the program financially.

Offshore Technology Conference 2004

We have successfully negotiated to share a booth with the Jones Executive MBA program at the 2004 Offshore Technology Conference (OTC). OTC is the world's foremost event for the development of offshore resources in the fields of drilling, exploration, production, and environmental protection. OTC is held annually at Reliant Center in Houston. This year it will take place May 3-6. We will be in booth 5306, located in the front near Entrance Hall A.

OTC ranks among the largest 200 trade shows held annually in the United States and is among the 10 largest meetings in terms of attendance. In 2003, attendance exceeded 50,000, and more than 2,000 companies participated in the exhibition. OTC includes attendees from around the globe, with more than 110 countries represented at recent conferences.

PROGRAM PUBLICITY

We reached the nanotechnology industry by distributing brochures at several conferences:

- Strategic Partnership for Research in Nanotechnology (SPRING). Dayton, OH. Sept. 15-16.
- Nanoparticles 2003 Conference. Cambridge, MA. Oct. 27-28.
- NanoCommerce 2003. Chicago, IL. Dec. 9-11.

Additionally, we have placed an advertisement for the Nanoscale Physics degree in the January DoD transition issue of Stars & Stripes. With this advertisement, we hope to enroll those military personnel who are transferring to the Houston area or transitioning out of the military.

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Terry Pack is quoted in a December article published by Bridges.com, an education and career planning web site. The article discusses nanotechnology as a promising new industry and the opportunities for work in this field.

PROGRAM INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Second Convention for PSM Coordinators

The Second Convention for Professional Science Master's coordinators was held in Washington, DC on October 2-3. This meeting also happened to be the first national meeting on master's education in the sciences and mathematics sponsored by the Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology (CPST). The meeting was attended by over 130 faculty members, university administrators, and higher education experts, as well as leaders in government, business and industry. In addition to exchanging experiences and ideas for Professional Science Master's programs, presentations were given on such topics as current trends in master's education, a profile of the new American graduate student, and ways to link to the business community. Terry Pack led one of four breakout discussions titled R20; Launching a New Program R21;. Supporters of Professional Science Master's include CPST, Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), and Council on Competitiveness.

To view the meeting agenda and PowerPoint presentations, visit http://www.cpst.org/Sloan_PSM_Meeting.htm.

2004 Annual Board Meeting

The Professional Master's Program Annual Board Meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2004. Dagmar Beck will be contacting board members this month concerning hotel and transportation arrangements.

STUDENT NEWS

EADM Student to Pursue PhD

One of our Environmental Analysis & Decision Making students, Matt Hotze, has decided to leave the program to pursue a PhD in Environmental Engineering. Dr. Mark Wiesner will be sponsoring him in his doctoral research. We wish Matt the best of luck!