

**RICE UNIVERSITY
PROFESSIONAL MASTER'S PROGRAM
NEWSLETTER
Issue 1, Summer 2003**

COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

In order to improve communications, we have decided to launch a quarterly newsletter. With these newsletters, we hope to keep everyone better informed about the progress and achievements of the Professional Master's Program and its students.

This first newsletter is a little lengthy, since we are covering a five month period. Future issues will be shorter – I promise. I hope that you benefit from these newsletters and encourage you to e-mail us with inquiries or information you would like to see included in the newsletters.

As a side note, I would like to thank everyone who responded to the feedback requests concerning internship reports and the program slogan. These issues are important to program development, so your quick responses are greatly appreciated. I will keep you informed as decisions are made.

Sincerely,

Terry L. Pack

2004 ANNUAL BOARD OF AFFILIATES MEETING

The annual board of affiliates meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 12, 2004, so mark your calendars. We will contact you shortly to verify your attendance.

PROGRAM NEWS

Subsurface Geoscience Degree Makes its Debut

The M.S. in Subsurface Geoscience will commence this fall with a total of two students.

Mr. Ndubuisi Nebo is moving from Nigeria where he worked as a database administrator for seven producing and drilling platforms. He graduated in 1995 with a B.S. in Electronic Engineering from the University of Nigeria. He intends to focus on geophysics.

Mr. Navarro earned a B.S. in Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering in 2002 from Cornell University where he served as a teaching assistant and a research assistant. He also co-founded the Cornell chapters of Phi Kappa Tau and the American Institute of Aeronautics (AIAA). He currently works as a project engineer with ExxonMobil Development Company, is fluent in English and Spanish, and proficient in French and Italian. He will participate part-time in our program while continuing to work for ExxonMobil.

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Student Enrollment Increases

Nine new students will start the Professional Master's Program this fall, up from three last year. A total of six students will start the Environmental Analysis track. Two students are enrolled in the Subsurface Geoscience track, and one student is enrolled in the Nanoscale Physics track.

Information on all students is attached in a Microsoft Word document for your reference.

PROGRAM PUBLICITY

New Brochures

We have updated all brochures to reflect the following program changes:

Change in track name to Subsurface Geoscience
Revised curriculum for the Environmental Analysis & Decision Making track
Sustainability focus area added to the Environmental Analysis & Decision Making track.

We also reworded the information pertaining to internships. The new wording encourages students to find their own internship positions with assistance from Rice's Career Services Center.

New brochures have been distributed to all associated department coordinators, and will be mailed to all board members shortly. Faculty wishing to receive new brochures should contact Dagmar Beck at (713) 348-3189 or dkbeck@rice.edu.

New Web Site Coming Soon

We have added a lot of new information to the web site to address student needs and increase program exposure. Before the end of the month, the web site will be completely redesigned to match our brochures and improve navigation.

Marketing Efforts

We have been working hard to market our program to potential students and employers. Here's a summary of some of our recent achievements.

WEB

We have special listings on gradschools.com, so our degrees appear at the top of the lists and are directly linked to our web site. Since April we have received over 400 hits through gradschools.com.

We have made great strides in increasing our web site rating on search engines. We have sponsored links on Yahoo!, Alta Vista, and Lycos and are in the process of improving our rating on other search engines (i.e. Google) by increasing the number of links pointing to our site.

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PRINT

- The April/May 2003 issue of The Industrial Physicist published a letter written by Dr. Barry Dunning promoting the Nanoscale Physics degree.
- The May 30, 2003 issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education published a letter to the editor written by Terry Pack touting the features of the Professional Master's Program.
- The July 2003 issue of Continental magazine mentions the Professional Master's Program in an article by John Harris titled, "Flexed: When it comes to higher education in Houston, flexibility is the name of the game".
- An advertisement for the Subsurface Geoscience degree placed in the August 2003 issue of the Journal of Petroleum Technology has already generated two inquiries.

OUTREACH

- We are escalating our corporate outreach efforts by working with Career Services and Rice's new Corporate Relations Director.
- Over 60 brochures were distributed at the July 24, 2003 Rice Alliance & BioHouston event titled, "A Vision for Houston's Economic Growth in the 21st Century: Nano-Biotechnology – A Window of Opportunity."
- Over 50 brochures were distributed at the Nano Summit 2003 event sponsored by the Nanotechnology Foundation of Texas on July 31, 2003.
- The Professional Master's Program will share a booth with the Jones School Executive MBA program at the Offshore Technology Conference to be held in the Reliant Center in May 2004.
- We have distributed information to over 300 university career services centers, academic advisors and department chairs. We are contacting targeted universities to schedule presentations for student groups.

We are in the process of developing a corporate contact list. Please send us contact information for anyone you feel may be interested in supporting our program through internships, sponsorships, or promotion.

PROGRAM INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Annual Sloan Professional Science Master's (PSM) All Program Meeting

The 2003 annual meeting of representatives from Sloan-funded professional science master's programs will take place on October 2 – 3 in Washington, D.C.

The meeting will address the value, importance and growth in master's education in the sciences and mathematics, with a particular focus on innovations and recent developments, including the Professional Science Master's (PSM) degree. Faculty, university administrators, higher education experts, and leaders in government, business and industry are urged to attend this meeting. Participants will be afforded an opportunity to interact with Congressional staffers, business leaders and the press, and with PSM program directors, faculty, staff and students from the Sloan- and Keck-funded PSM programs.

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Terry Pack will serve as Session Facilitator for one of four concurrent break-out discussions on various aspects of the PSM. Ms. Pack will facilitate the discussion on launching a new program. The other sessions will address recruitment challenges, sustainability issues, and growing the PSM program.

More information on the meeting can be found at
http://www.cpst.org/Sloan_PSM_meeting.htm.

PROGRAM FINANCIAL NEWS

Scholarships

We have identified two small scholarships available to students interested in our program: The Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans and the Society of Exploration Geophysicists Foundation Scholarship Program. International students may also apply for the Fulbright Program for Non-U.S. Students. These scholarships are listed on our web site under "Tuition and Assistance".