

**RICE UNIVERSITY**  
**PROFESSIONAL MASTER'S PROGRAM**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**Issue 5, Winter 2004**

**PUBLICITY**

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The October issue of *Prism*, a publication by the American Society for Engineering Education, features an article that discusses the Nanoscale Physics degree at Rice. The article, titled "Sweating the Small Stuff", focuses on nanotechnology in the classroom, and also mentions a new undergraduate course designed by Rice's Center for Biological and Environmental Nanotechnology. A link to the article can be found at our web site under News and Announcements at the "What's New" page.

Schlumberger published an article on our program in the winter issue of their corporate newsletter, *USLife*.

To continue increasing awareness of the professional science masters, we distributed hundreds of brochures at the Nano-Summit Conference (hosted by Nanotechnology Foundation of Texas) and ATCE 2004 (hosted by the Society of Petroleum Engineers).

We were also busy contacting local companies to encourage their participation in the internship program and involvement with the Professional Master's Seminar. We had successful meetings with NASA Johnson Space Center, Argent Consulting, CH2M Hill, Trinity Consultants in Dallas, and TriQuint Semiconductors in Dallas.

The fall seminar included speakers from ConocoPhillips, TCEQ and Brown & Caldwell. See the complete seminar speaker list below:

<b>Linda Driskill</b>	Director Cain Project, Rice University: Presentation Skills
<b>Andrew Roberts</b>	Director of Sustainability, CononcoPhillips: Sustainability
<b>Marsha Hill</b>	Texas Commission of Environmental Quality: Environmental Issues in Texas
<b>Steve Ramsey</b>	Client Services Manager, CH2M Hill, Board of Affiliates Member: Environmental Consulting
<b>Chuck Newell</b>	President, Groundwater Services Inc., Board of Affiliates Member: Groundwater Clean-up, Environmental Consulting
<b>Cindy Clifford</b>	Owner, Clifford Group: Networking/Self-promotion
<b>Louma Ghandour</b>	Asst. Director Career Center, Rice University: Behavioral Assessment
<b>Austin Cooley</b>	Chief Engineer, Brown & Caldwell: Environmental issues
<b>Pris Weeks</b>	Anthropologist, HARC: Social & Policy Analysis

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**STUDENTS NEWS**

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**Fall 2004 Graduates**

**Padraig Moloney** graduates with a M.S. in Nanoscale Physics. He fulfilled his internship requirement by working in the NanoMaterials team of his employer, NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC). His project focused on the design and development of applications for human space flight utilizing nanoscale materials. He will continue to work for NASA and act as JSC principal investigator for a proposed Jet Propulsion Laboratory-led project related to the next Mars rover mission.

**Doug Thompson** graduates with an M.S. in Environmental Analysis and Decision Making. As owner of a management consulting firm, Doug's project focused on creating a business model to help small and medium-sized companies develop sustainability strategies. Doug will use the model he created to expand his business into sustainable development for the business community.

**Internships Come to an End**

Five students complete their six-month internships this December and prepare for their final semester of study. The internship provided the students with invaluable experience and helped them make decisions about the future. Here's what they had to say:

“Researching the environmental impact of nanomaterials manufacture offered me a chance to really see how risk management and engineering overlap and are both necessary for critical decision making about new technologies. Just as valuable to me was the chance to work with a Rice professor on an EPA funded research project, which gave me a taste of the academic career path and helped me to choose my next steps for after I complete the program.”

- **Christine Robichaud** (Dr. Mark Wiesner, Rice University)

“The internship with TOTAL E&P USA, Inc. gave me the hands-on experience I need to continue my career in the oil and gas business. The project I was involved in not only exposed me to the technical aspect of the exploration business, but also helped me in building my interpersonal skills.”

- **Nd Nebo** (Total E&P, Inc., Houston)

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“My internship has been challenging, rewarding, and a wonderful learning experience. The challenge of jumping into the middle of a research group and learning what they are studying, as well as analyzing their results, has been intellectually stimulating. Teaching myself new methods of data analysis, as well as learning how to integrate with an established research group and communicate effectively with them, has been especially rewarding. All in all, the past six months have taught me how to attain the tools I need to answer the questions posed by others in a research setting. I think this experience will be invaluable in the future.”

- **Andrea Crumpacker** (Dr. Hanadi Rifai, University of Houston)

“Everyone at GSI made me feel part of the team from the day I arrived. I have been involved with many projects ranging from researching weather patterns in South America to writing visual basic code for the front end of a database. The experience has definitely been worthwhile, and the skills I learned will be applicable to any future career path.”

- **Iain Cowie** (Groundwater Services, Inc., Houston)

“I had the opportunities to deal with various projects, and stayed involved and challenged all the time. The combination of my textbook knowledge and what I learned from the experiences of my co-workers enabled me to solve several problems. I am now confident to say that I am ready to begin my environmental career.”

- **Christy Mak** (Trinity Consultants, Houston)

**New Fall 04 Students**

Our four new students in the Environmental Analysis and Decision Making track will be starting to look for internships at the beginning of the New Year. If you are interested in receiving their resumes for possible placement consideration, please contact us at [profms@rice.edu](mailto:profms@rice.edu)

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**BOARD OF AFFILIATE NEWS**

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Steve Ramsey accepted a position with CH2M Hill. We congratulate Mr. Ramsey on his move and look forward to developing a strong relationship with CH2M Hill.

**STAFF NEWS**

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Program Coordinator Terry Pack announced her departure from her position to pursue a career change necessitating a full-time return to school. However, she will be available to the program on a contractual basis this coming spring.

Dagmar Beck will assume responsibilities for the administration and coordination of the program.

**WEB SITE**

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Make sure to check our web site [www.profms.rice.edu](http://www.profms.rice.edu) regularly, as we keep it updated with new information, resources, and upcoming events.

For comments or questions, please contact us at [profms@rice.edu](mailto:profms@rice.edu)