PROGRAM PROMOTION

Corporate Reception

Sixty company representatives attended a Corporate Reception held at Cohen House on January 22nd. They were joined by faculty, staff, and the twelve students currently enrolled in the program.

The purpose of this reception was to increase corporate awareness and support of the Professional Master’s Program, as well as to encourage and solidify relationships between Rice and the private sector. It is crucial to the success of this program to encourage corporate participation not only in the form of internships and positions for our students, but also by offering scholarships to support students. The evening was such a great success that plans are being made for another reception next year!

*Provost Gene Levy welcoming guests to the reception.*

PROGRAM PUBLICITY

In effort to increase enrollment in the Nanoscale Physics program, brochures and information material were sent to several national and international conferences:

- IBF’s Nanotech Investing Forum, Feb. 2004, Palm Springs, CA
- NanoBioTech Summit, March 2004, San Marcos, TX

National Nanotechnology Initiative, Annual Meeting, April 2004, Washington, DC

Display of PSM Banner in Washington, DC.

If you missed the article published about our program in the recent Rice News, please go to the following link:

OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE 2004

As already reported in our last newsletter, the Professional Master’s Program will be sharing a booth with the Jones Executive MBA program at the Offshore Technology Conference on May 3 - 6, 2004. The OTC is held annually at the Reliant Center in Houston. Come visit us at booth 5306, located in the front of the building near Entrance Hall A.

Thousands of industry professionals from all over the world will attend OTC Houston 2004 to see the next generation of technology and innovation in the oil & gas industry, and to hear and learn from the experiences of other companies within the industry. The last two OTC shows have attracted more than 49,000 visitors. Hope to see you there!

FEBRUARY, 2004 - ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

Comments and suggestions received during this very well attended and successful meeting will help us solidify the future direction of each track, develop relationships with key corporate personnel, and secure internships for students.

A major result of this year’s meeting was the decision to reduce the minimum length of the required internship from six months to three months. After much discussion it was determined that six-month internships can place an unnecessary burden on small companies. Additionally, several large companies are only prepared to offer the traditional three- to four-month positions. Students are still encouraged to find a six-month internship but the reduced minimum requirement expands their opportunities.
2004 BOARD MEETING RESULTS ....cont’d

This year’s marketing focus will be less on student recruitment and more on corporate participation. To insure the future success of the ProfMS program as it grows, Rice must identify and contact key corporate managers who have the authority to hire interns. We made great strides during our corporate reception in January. In addition, several board members have agreed to provide information on key contacts in their respective industries. We expect student interest and enrollment to increase as corporate awareness of the benefits of these degrees increases.

STUDENTS NEWS

We will have three students graduating this May! Bill Schleizer and Natalie Irwin will graduate with an MS in Environmental Analysis and Decision Making, and Ilia Geltser is expected to earn the program’s first MS in Nanoscale Physics. All three students will give project/internship presentations during April 2004.

Padraig Moloney – one of our part-time Nanoscale Physics students – will be presenting results of his ProfMS project in Fall 2004 at Rice University. He is also presenting his findings on Aerospace Applications of Carbon Nanotubes: Proton Exchange Membranes and CO₂ Filtration at the following events:

- Nanocomposite Workshop at the Florida Advance Center

Several students in the Environmental Analysis and Decision Making track have actively participated in activities through the Shell Center for Sustainability.

Andrea Crumpacker, Christine Robichaud, and Doug Thompson attended a two-day energy conference at Duke University in March.

Doug Thompson also helped Shell Center prepare a response to Exxon’s request for case study support on Houston Clean Air Act compliance.

Andrea Crumpacker worked with the Rice Environmental Club to install an Air Quality Index sign in the Rice Student Center.

Christine Robichaud helped Shell Center prepare and conduct a sustainability course for corporate education within the Jones Graduate School of Management. The course, “Sustainable Development in the Energy Business”, was offered in February 2004, and is part of “The Certificate of Management in Energy” program. Christine was also involved with the case study of a recycling company and an HISD initiative to teach sustainable development concepts in public schools.
BOARD MEMBER NEWS

Dr. James V. Taranik has been appointed as the first permanent director of the newly formed Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering. The Mackay School was formed following a reorganization at the University of Nevada at Reno which included the formation of two new colleges, the College of Science and the College of Liberal Arts.

The former Mackay School of Mines, of which Dr. Taranik was acting dean, gained a new name and is incorporated within the new College of Science. Congratulations, Dr. Taranik!

Dr. Yoran Shoham has retired from his position as Vice President of External Relations at Shell International.
Dr. Shoham will be keeping busy with several projects, as well as continuing to provide advice for the Professional Master’s Program. We applaud Dr. Shoham for a successful career and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

For comments or questions, please contact us at: profms@rice.edu or visit our web site at www.profms.rice.edu