PROGRAM PROMOTION

2nd Annual Corporate PSM Reception

Faculty, staff, and students of the Professional Science Master program welcomed approximately 35 company representatives on April 7th to a reception held at the Farnsworth Pavilion.

Last year’s reception had been received so well that it was decided to repeat it on an annual basis. Bringing companies, faculty and students together will increase awareness and support of the PSM program, and it will encourage and solidify relationships between Rice and the private sector. The success of our program depends on corporate participation by offering internships to our students and providing financial support through corporate scholarships.
Program Publicity

To increase awareness of the professional science master’s, PSM faculty and staff participated at a number of events this spring:

- In January, Dr. Sawyer, Rice Earth Science professor, and program coordinator Dagmar Beck participated at a February workshop “A New Work Force Initiative” organized by Halliburton. Halliburton’s management is interested in developing a model for corporations supporting a PSM program tailor-made to the respective industry’s needs. The goal is to find a PSM curriculum uniquely addressing an identified skill set for the petroleum industry. This information would then be evaluated with a select university to develop and offer a PSM program beneficial to the petroleum industry. This setting was a great opportunity for us to promote our Subsurface Geoscience program, positioning it as a possible solution to their work initiative goal.

- The Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology invited us to give a PSM program presentation to a delegation from Italy representing the Veneto Nanotech organization. This newly founded association just developed a nanotechnology-related master’s program. The visitors were very interested in learning about our Nanoscale Physics track, and they suggested a possible faculty exchange between the Universities of Padova/Venecia and Rice.

- We also attended the Rice Career Fair in January where we met with prospective students and distributed our information material.

- Our Nanoscale Physics brochures and PSM banner went to the Nanotech Forum in Houston in January and to Hawaii in February to the 3rd Annual Nano Materials Symposium for distribution.

- A delegation from ConocoPhillips and the Libyan Ministry of Energy visited with the PSM coordinator and faculty from the Earth Science department in May. The delegation intended to establish a relationship with the goal of sending students from Libya to Rice’s PSM program in Subsurface Geoscience to pursue their graduate degree under sponsorship of ConocoPhillips. The delegation was very impressed by our program, and during our discussions we also explored a possible integration of a summer intensive English learning program for Libyan students at Rice to prepare them better for the PSM coursework.

- Environmental Analysis and Decision Making brochures were distributed at two conferences hosted by the Shell Center of Sustainability in February: “Houston Air Quality: Meeting the New Ozone Standards” and at the Climate Exchange Conference. We also participated at an Environmental Educators Exchange Meeting where we distributed program information.
PROGRAM NEWS

Meeting with Sloan Representative
Sheila Tobias, outreach coordinator of the Sloan Foundation, spent a day at the university to evaluate the progress of our program and to discuss possible actions to encourage corporations, foundations, and the Texas government to support scholarships for our programs. Groundwork was laid to start a Texas PSM group consisting of PSM representatives and government/education representatives to petition for statewide support for PSM programs.

The Sloan Foundation has stopped funding individual university programs and is now supporting implementation of PSM programs in state university systems, with California, Maryland and South Carolina being the first states to try statewide PSM program implementation.

Development and Implementation of a Professional Science Master’s 5th Year Degree Option for Rice Undergraduates
Rice students have now the option pursue the M.S. in Nanoscale Physics or Subsurface Geoscience by adding an additional 5th year to their four undergraduate years of study. This new program option was advertised to Rice students with a “media blitz” of three consecutive ads in the student newspaper “Rice Thresher” during March and April.

PSM Physics Programs
For discussions on issues pertaining to Physics PSM programs nationwide, Dr. Dunning, track director of the Nanoscale Physics program, and Dagmar Beck, PSM program coordinator, participated in the PSM Physics Conference in Tucson, Arizona in February. Representatives from academia, industry and professional societies discussed how to overcome low enrollments of students in physics-related PSM programs, how to apply marketing strategies, how to assure availability of internships, and how to improve relations with corporations.

Spring Master Seminar
The spring seminar hosted the following speakers:

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<th>Speaker</th>
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<tr>
<td>Will Shut</td>
<td>Argent Consulting, Senior Compliance Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Les Ballard</td>
<td>Ballard Explorations, President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Clark</td>
<td>Schlumberger Fellow, Member of Board of Affiliates</td>
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<td>Bill Schoellhorn</td>
<td>Total A&amp;P, Senior Geological Advisor</td>
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<td>Mary Anne Piacentini</td>
<td>Katie Prairie Conservancy, Exec. Director</td>
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<td>Pat Cook</td>
<td>Halliburton, Sustainability Director</td>
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<td>Neal Lane</td>
<td>Rice University, Senior Fellow, Baker Institute</td>
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<td>Rebecca Burnett</td>
<td>Cain Project – Portfolio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Lentz</td>
<td>City of Houston, Quality Air Control</td>
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STUDENT RECRUITMENT

For the first time, our program qualified for recruitment funding by Rice’s Office of Graduate Studies. These funds allowed us to invite a group of prospective students to campus from March 16th through 19th. Five out of eight invited students were able to attend a program consisting of campus tours; presentations by program coordinator, Cain Project faculty, Rice Career Center; lunch with program faculty; personal tours of Jones Business school, Nano Lab and Shell Center; meeting and interacting with current students; visit of Radio Music Theater and Rodeo with other students. Four of these five students accepted our admission offer and will be part of a group of eight joining our program this fall.

STUDENT NEWS

Fall 04/ Spring 05 Graduates

Graduates with M.S. in Nanoscale Physics:

Padraig Moloney
Padraig graduated in Fall 2004 and participated in the official graduation ceremony together with our Spring graduates. Padraig decided to continue studies at Rice and pursue his Ph.D. under the guidance of Dr. Barrera in Mechanical Engineering/Materials Science.
Graduates with M.S. in Environmental Analysis and Decision Making:

Doug Thompson
Doug graduated in Fall 2004, and also participated in the official graduation ceremony together with the spring graduates. Doug will use the model he created during his internship project to expand his business into sustainable development for the business community.

Christine Robichaud
Christine fulfilled her internship requirement by researching the environmental impact of nanomaterials with Rice professor Dr. Mark Wiesner. This research led her to the decision to continue in academia and pursue her Ph.D. at Rice.

Andrea Crumpacker
Andrea pursued her internship project with Dr. Hanadi Rifai from the University of Houston determining temporal patterns for wastewater plant discharges and analyzing dioxin data collected from the Houston Ship Channel. Andrea has accepted a temporary job assignment with a Canadian-based consulting company called Archipelago LTD based in Victoria, B.C. at one of their offices in Newport, Oregon.

Iain Cowie
Iain worked during his internship with Groundwater Services, Inc. in Houston. He was involved with many projects ranging from researching weather patterns in South America to writing visual basic code for the front end of a database. His relationship with Groundwater Services has not ended, as Iain accepted employment with them starting June 1, 2005.

Christy Mak
Christy worked on her internship project with Trinity Consultants in Houston. She assisted with various air quality/environmental compliance-related projects, and her report dealt with air dispersion modeling for an oil company in the Houston Ship Channel area. Christy would like to continue working in the environmental consulting field and is looking for job opportunities at this time.

Graduates with an M.S. in Subsurface Geoscience:

Nd Nebo
Nd pursued his internship with Total E&P USA, Inc. The project he was involved in exposed him to the technical aspects of the exploration business. Nd has accepted a temporary position with Burlington Resources in Houston.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR GRADUATES!!
Fall 05 EADM Students’ Internships

Varun Anand: Varun will be interning with CDM’s Environmental Management and Planning staff within their Consulting and Engineering Division. His primary focus will be to support the industrial client sector in the Gulf Coast on air, water, and waste compliance management and permitting issues.

Ellice Lin: Ellice chose to locate an internship in her home state California and is in the process of deciding on a position.

Sarah Mason: Found an internship with Houston Wilderness Organization, chaired by Jim Blackburn, adjunct professor at Rice University and prominent environmental lawyer in Texas. She will independently create an interactive user-friendly database, gather members' feedback to assist in formulating goals for the organization, create a glossary of conservation terminology, expand contact lists, and develop a library of resource publications and case studies from fellow organizations.

Avanti Tamhane: Avanti was hired by Argent Consulting, Inc., an environmental consulting firm providing a wide range of services related to air, water, hazardous and industrial waste. She will be assisting with a variety of air quality and environmental compliance-related projects.

Silvia Centanni and Shawna McLallen, students in our Subsurface Geoscience track received an internship at Lynn Inc., a private geological consulting and project management corporation specializing in full-azimuth p-wave and multi-component 3-D seismic data analysis. Their projects focus on analyzing data and measurements to discern the nature of fracturing and differential horizontal stresses in certain reservoirs.

INCOMING STUDENTS FALL 2005

So far, we have accepted the following students for Fall 05:
3 in Environmental Analysis and Decision Making
4 in Nanoscale Physics
1 in Subsurface Geoscience

WEB SITE

Make sure to check our web site 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.