PSM Biennial Professional Science Master’s Conference in Washington D.C.

For discussions on issues pertaining PSM programs nationwide, Dagmar Beck, PSM program coordinator, participated at the 2005 Professional Science Master's (PSM) Conference hosted by The Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology (CPST) in Washington D.C. at the American Association for the Advancement of Science in October, 2005.

Over 150 PSM directors and coordinators, faculty members; university administrators; representatives from government, business and industry; and policymakers attended the national meeting. Participants also met with Congressional representatives and staffers and attended a joined reception held on Capitol Hill. One of the goals of this conference was to raise government officials’ awareness of the PSM programs, demonstrate how these programs can help the U.S. overcome the declining trend of science student enrollment, and urge for funding to support PSM graduate students.

The conference demonstrated the increasing demand for graduates with the trademark features of the PSM programs: Scientific competency, technical know-how with tools of modern science, analytical skills combining fundamental and quantitative insights, understanding of business issues, people and communication skills.

CGS President, Dr. Diana Stewart, attended this year’s PSM Conference. The Council of Graduate Schools is an organization of institutions of higher education in the United States, Canada, and across the globe engaged in graduate education, research scholarship, and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. Their mission is to improve and advance graduate education through advocacy in the federal policy arena, innovative research, and the development and dissemination of best practices.

CGS has identified the Professional Science Masters programs as a key element to improve the nation's innovation capabilities and to help keep the US competitive in a global economy. CGS is convinced that the PSM programs will inspire, recruit and train a larger domestic pool of
technical talent vital for security and continued prosperity of the U.S., and at the same time, increase the retention rate of undergraduates in science, technology, engineering and math.

Within weeks of the conference, The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) announced that they have received a three-year $1.8 million grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to support and extend the PSM. This grant will enable CGS to promote the Professional Science Master’s concept with the goal to establishing the PSM degree as a regular feature of U.S. graduate education. (The press release can be found under www.sciencemasters.org under “News Update” and on our web site)

Eleanor Babco, Executive Director, Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology - Michael Teitelbaum, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation - Debra Stewart, President, Council of Graduate Schools

The involvement and support of the CGS organization will further give the PSM programs more recognition and higher visibility increasing its nationwide status and extending a stronger influence on government for federal funding.

**PROGRAM PROMOTION**

*MARK YOUR CALENDAR:*

**THE 2006 PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTER’S CORPORATE RECEPTION WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 7TH IN DUNCAN HALL.**

**PSM Fall Company Visits:**
In order to build and maintain alliances with our program business partners, we have scheduled monthly company visits to meet company representatives in person to solidify our relationship with existing internship providers, and establish continuity for possible future internships. So far, we have visited with representatives of CDM, Houston Wilderness, and Argent Consulting - internship providers for three of our EADM students this summer and fall.

**New Career Services Web Site:**
Rice Career Services revamped their web site beginning of the fall semester to improve user access and web site efficiency. The new web site features include an extensive representation of the PSM program offering a wide range of information for corporations and students. (see http://careers.rice.edu/studentsgrad.cfm?doc_id=6438 or connect through our web site)
Promotion of Subsurface Geoscience Track:
With the help of Rice’s Earth Science department, we are in the process to develop a strategy to promote our SG program to Mexico/Central and South America. Our brochure has been translated into Spanish to better service the student market in Mexico and other Spanish speaking countries.

Program Publicity:

- **Nanoscale Physics** brochures and **PSM banner** were displayed at the Nano Summit Conference in Houston (7/2005) and at the Baker Institute Energy Forum: Energy and Nanotechnology: Storage and the Grid (11/2005)
- **Rice Job/Career Fair** (9/05) – established personal contact with a variety of corporate representatives and inquired about internship possibilities.
- Distribution of a **PSM Information Inserts** in the Career Fair Guide
- Publication of **PSM ads** in the Austin Student Newspaper (8/05, 9/05, 12/05), and also in the Rice Thresher (8/05)
- **Rice Student Advisors** received program information flyer at the beginning of the fall semester
- **PSM information packages** were mailed out to over 50 universities contacts during fall.

Implementation of improved Communication Training Program:

In order to make the program’s communication skill training more effective, an improved training program for PSM students was designed in cooperation with Cain Project faculty. For the first time, incoming Professional Science Master’ students were offered a communication assessment workshop before start of the fall semester. This assessment consisted of six parts: writing sample, editing, designing and presenting power point presentations, and verbal/oral skills. The Cain Faculty analyzed the results and developed a tailor-made improvement plan addressing weaknesses of each individual student.
Fall Master Seminar:

During the fall semester the following speakers joined us at our seminar:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Institution</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chris Holmes</td>
<td>Executive Director, Environmental &amp; Energy Systems Institute and Shell Center</td>
<td>Activities of the Shell Center for Sustainability</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Driskill</td>
<td>Director Cain Project, Rice University</td>
<td>Portfolio design, Power Point. and General Review of Assessment Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Hendler</td>
<td>Consultant GHP/BCCA, former TCEQ</td>
<td>Houston/Galveston Brazoria Ozone SIP Issues</td>
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<td>Mark Friedman</td>
<td>Management Consulting</td>
<td>Career Management</td>
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<td>Diana McSherry</td>
<td>Digisonics, Inc., Board of Affiliates Member</td>
<td>Success in Technical Management</td>
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<td>Wade Adams</td>
<td>Director CNST</td>
<td>Nanotechnology</td>
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<td>Tim Nash</td>
<td>Vice President, BG Corp.</td>
<td>LNG Logistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louma Ghandour</td>
<td>Asst. Director, Rice Career Center</td>
<td>Behavioral Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sivaram Arepalli</td>
<td>Phd, NASA-JSC Center Director</td>
<td>Nanomaterial Activities at NASA</td>
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STUDENT RECRUITMENT

Recruitment Trips to Boston, Washington, and Philadelphia

Program Coordinator, Dagmar Beck was busy traveling this fall. During her Boston recruitment trip, faculty, career service representatives, and students at Wellesley College, Tufts University, MIT, and Harvard were visited to promote the PMS program at Rice.

The attendance at the Biennial PSM Conference in Washington was combined with visits at George Washington University and Georgetown University to discuss the PSM program with
physics and earth science faculty there, and also present program information to their career centers.

In November, we attended the Professional and Graduate School Consortium and Fair in Philadelphia, PA. More than 140 universities were represented at this one-day event.

**Rice’s Office of Graduate Studies awarded PSM Recruitment Funding:**

Recruitment funds for the PSM program were received from Rice’s Office of Graduate Studies. These funds will allow us to promote our program with emphasis on minority students, and also to invite a group of prospective students to campus this coming March.

**STUDENT NEWS**

**FALL 05 Graduate**

**Graduate with a M.S. in Subsurface Geoscience: Shawna McLallen**

*Shawna* is the first Rice undergraduate who took advantage of the new 5th year degree option available for the SG program. She received a Bachelor of Science at Rice and started taking core courses during her senior year, allowing her to finish the PSM degree within the 5th year. She pursued her internship with Lynn Inc., a private geological consulting and project management corporation, and is considering several permanent job offers at this time.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**PSM Students attend Conference:**

Two of our Nanoscale Physics students, *Varun Anand* and *Aditya Patel*, were invited to participate at a two day “Global Entrepreneurship Conference” in the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

**Faculty/Student Socials:**

With the goal to improve communication between faculty and students, and to give PSM students an opportunity to meet faculty on a social level, regular faculty/student socials were established this fall. Various faculty and staff met with students three times for socials during the fall semesters.
FALL 04 Students

Returning from their internships at CDM, Municipal Waste Water District of Orange County, CA, Houston Wilderness Organization, Lynn Inc., and Argent Consulting, our students Varun Anand, Ellice Lin, Sarah Mason, Sylvia Centanni, and Avanti Tamhane are reuniting on campus to finish their last semester of the PSM program. After graduation in May 2006 they will be ready to join corporations in their respective fields.

FALL 05 Students

This group of students is entering their 2nd semester of the program. They have been busy studying, preparing their resumes and getting ready to interview for internship positions. We will have three Nanoscale Physics students, three Environmental Analysis and Decision Making, and one Subsurface Geoscience students requiring internships starting this summer. If your company has positions open, please contact us to request a resume book!

SPRING 06 Incoming Students

One new Subsurface Geoscience student, Danny Reed arriving from the U.K., and two new Nanoscale Physics students Matthew Lee and William Lee, will be starting the program in Spring 06.

PSM ALUMNI NEWS – JOB UPDATES

Padraig Moloney is now leading the Nanomaterials Applications R&D at NASA JSC, which includes work in advanced power and energy storage, regenerable life support, and radiation shielding technologies.

Christine Robichaud became General Manager for American Biofuels in Palestine, TX.

Andrea Crumpacker finished an assignment with Archipelago Ltd, and has accepted a position as Environmental Statistician for Weston Solutions in Carlsbad, California.

Christy Mak started working for Sage Environmental in Houston, Texas.

Natalie Irwin accepted a position with EIP Water Resources Group in California.

WEB SITE

Make sure to check our web site www.profms.rice.edu regularly, as we keep it updated with new information, resources, and more detailed info on the upcoming PSM Reception. For comments or questions, please contact us at profms@rice.edu.