NATIONAL PSM PROGRAM NEWS

Highlights of the National Professional Science Master's Association's (NPSMA) Activities in 2010

The National Professional Science Master's Association (NPSMA), the organization of PSM faculty, program directors, industry partners, and alumni, completed several projects under the guidance of the NPSMA Executive Committee:

- Establishment of an online Career Center that enables PSM students and alumni to post their resumes and search for job openings in STEM fields and serves as a place for potential employers to view student and alumni resumes
- Launch of our newly designed website that has better navigation, expanded features, and database capabilities
- Release of NPSMA Best Practices Statement compiled by the NPSMA best practices committee and Publication of PSM Degree Program Enrollee and Graduate Report
- Information workshops in Tucson, AZ, Nashville, TN, Springfield, MA, and Claremont, CA
- Successful National Conferences in Atlanta, GA
- Graduate fairs piloted at our workshops and conferences. Participation at prestigious academic conferences and professional meetings
- Assistance and advice provided for the National Association of System Heads (NASH) in system- and campus-wide adoption of PSM programs at the following institutions: the California State University, the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Middle States Consortium, the University of Massachusetts (UMASS), the State University of New York (SUNY), the University of North Carolina, and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE)
- Growth of Academic Institution NPSMA Membership to 60+ colleges and universities

The NPSMA has chosen dates for two of its 2011 Best Practices Workshops:

- February 24-25, 2011 in Baltimore, Maryland
- April 7-8, 2011 in St. Paul/ Mankato, Minnesota

Mark your calendar, if you are interested in attending!

GOVERNMENT NEWS

The Senate passed an amended version of the COMPETES Act late on Dec. 17th, 2010. The amended bill does include Section 527-- Twenty First Century Graduate Education at NSF. The language appears to be intact: “The NSF director shall award grants, on a competitive, merit reviewed basis to institutions of higher education to implement or expand research-based reforms in master’s and doctoral level STEM education that emphasize preparation for diverse careers utilizing STEM degrees, including at diverse types of institutions, in industry and at government agencies and research laboratories.” Activities specifically authorized include creation, improvement, or expansion of innovative graduate programs such as science master's degree programs.

As part of the PSM community we have submitted appeals to the House leadership urging passage of the bill.
CORPORATE NEWS

Mark your calendar on Feb. 23rd, 2011 and plan to attend the 8th Annual Corporate PSM Reception!
This year, for the first time, at the brand-new BioScience Research Collaborative Building (BRC)!

In November, our students have started to send out notifications to our corporate supporters, internship providers, seminar speakers and other interested corporate representatives and friends of Rice's Professional Science Master's Program. If you are interested in attending and have not received an event invitation, please contact dkbeck@rice.edu! Hope to see you there!

Fall was an active semester for our corporate efforts. In July, we collaborated with the Rice Corrosion Center in hosting a roundtable discussion with representatives from the renewable and alternate energy industry. Corporate luncheons were hosted with GSI Environmental, Chevron, Nanoridge, Marathon Oil and CDM Consulting.

December 2010 Student Project Presentations and Semester-end Reception

Four students presented on their internship project this fall, Brandon Mooney, EADM, spoke about his internship with the Committee on Science and Technology, a sub-committee on Energy and Environment with the U.S. House of Representatives. Esther Rios, EADM, reported on her internship with Chevron's Government Relations Office. Shibu Mathukutty, SG, presented about his internship with Halliburton/Landmark. Julian Talley presented separately on his internship project with Chevron due to proprietary issues.

Fall Seminar Speakers:
Thank you to all our speakers this fall: Thomas McHugh, GSI Environmental; Sherilyn Williams-Stroud, Microseismic; Wade Adams, Smalley Institute, Rice University; Ed Biegert, Shell; Glauco Souza, N3dBio; Najib Abusaibi, Schlumberger, Atul Salhotra, RAM Consulting, Jackie Hing, Rice CSPD and the Rice PSM Communication faculty, Mary Purugganan and Liz Eich.
BOARD OF AFFILIATES NEWS

Dr. James Stevens has retired from Chevron and also from the PSM Board as of December 2010. Mal O’Neill has accepted a presidential appointment to serve in a military position and can no longer participate in our board.

We have actively pursued replacement board members, and we are delighted to welcome Thomas McHugh, GSI Environmental, Rick Bost, Environmental Resource Management and Robert Sandilos, Chevron, as new members of our Board of Affiliates.

All three new members have strong ties to Rice and the PSM Program having participated in many events. We appreciate their interest and support of the PSM Program. We are counting on their involvement with our students, their industry feedback, and their continued participation in our activities in the future.

We are now recruiting alumni to serve as Board Members to achieve representation of all stakeholders and participants in the PSM program. The **2011 Board of Affiliates Meeting** is scheduled for Thursday, February 24th, 2011.

PSM PROGRAM PUBLICITY

- Check out our Rice PSM Facebook Site: [www.facebook.com/Professional.Science.Masters](http://www.facebook.com/Professional.Science.Masters) and become a friend!
- **Nanoscale Physics Program/Students mentioned in article by Institute of Physics.**
- **Buckyball Discovery Gala – The Richard E. Smalley Institute celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Buckyball Discovery and the 1996 Nobel Prize in Chemistry!**

  This event was underwritten by **Lockheed Martin.**
  A Gala took place in the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Downtown. PSM Nanoscale Physics students Will Buck, Scott Horton, David Timm and Zhou Zhou assisted with set-up, manned the registration table and supported the Smalley Institute staff throughout the three conference days following the Gala event.

  Gala highlights included Remarks from former Virginia Governor George Allen on Nanotechnology Innovation in the United States, Nano Demonstration with Congressman John Culberson using a Scanning Electron Microscope, World Premiere of the Nano Symphony preformed by River Oaks Chamber Orchestra

  (Photo: Scott Horton, Dagmar Beck, First Last, and Zhou Zhou)

- **Rice Alliance** hosted the February 2010 **Nanotech Forum.** PSM program volunteers distributed PSM brochures, and students took advantage of the networking opportunities offered at the company showcase directly following the forum.

- **NASA Roundtable Discussion under guidance of Dr. David Alexander** – Representatives from NASA joined us on campus to explore collaboration between the PSM Program and NASA.

- **2010 PERF Meeting of the Petroleum Environmental Research** – This meeting was held at Chevron’s downtown office discussing Marine Oil Spill Response Environmental Research needs, several PSM students attended the forum.

- The PSM Program participated and distributed brochures at the **Innovation & Successful Partnerships Summit** at the new Rice BioScience Research Collaborative building (BRC).
2010 SACNAS Annual National Conference – The NPSMA/CGS held a booth and Rice PSM brochures were distributed.

2010 Rice Alliance 8th Annual Energy and Clean Technology Venture Forum – The PSM staff and students distributed brochures and took advantage of networking opportunities with corporate representatives at this very successful and well-attended event in fall of 2010.

PSM students participated and networked at BioHouston held this year at the Rice BioScience Research Collaborative building.

Rice Fall PSM Recruitment Trips
• Visit to Clairemont Colleges for faculty visits and a NPSMA Regional Workshop
• Visit to Boston’s Northeastern University for recruitment and NPSMA Advisory Meeting
• Trip to Arizona State University in Phoenix, AZ for a Nanoscale Physics presentation and meetings with faculty, students and staff
• Recruitment trip to University of Chicago and attendance of NPSMA Executive Committee Retreat
• Chairing NPSMA Annual Conference in Atlanta, GA and meeting with local university representatives

PSM PROGRAM NEWS

New Staff
We are happy to report that the PSM Program has added a program coordinator to help with running the PSM Program tracks at Rice. Please welcome Emalie Vann Thok to our program staff, don’t hesitate to stop by our offices to meet her.

PSM Student Club
PSM students took time for some fun and recreation! The new Social Chair for the PSM Student Club, Matthew Prudhomme, has been busy getting students together for concerts and other events, and has started a new initiative that resulted in a PSM Intramural flag football team. The club also organized a Thanksgiving Dinner for PSM students who couldn’t go home for this holiday!

PSM STUDENT NEWS

Interns returned from Summer/Fall Internships
EADM students: Reshmy Mohanan and Shilpi Desai with GSI Environmental, Chris Campbell with the City of Houston and URS in California, Ester Rios with Chevron Environmental Department, Brandon Mooney with the Committee on Science and Technology, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC
SG students: Julian Talley with Chevron, Mengqi Huang and Liang Ge with Schlumberger
NP students: Ramnik Singh with NGimat, Sona Joseph with UT NanoMedicine and BioMedical Engineering, and Ainur Koshkinbayeva with Texas State University in San Marcos

Thanks to all the internship providers! We appreciate your continued support!

Incoming Spring 2011 Students
We are welcoming three new Subsurface Geoscience students and one Environmental Analysis and Decision Making student who started their studies in January.
ALUMNI NEWS

Nada Ahmed (EADM) accepted a new job with DVN (Det Veritas Nortas) and is now in their clean energy unit working on alternative technologies to reduce our carbon footprint, including wind energy and carbon sequestration. Good luck at your new position, Nada!

Wilfred Kittler (NP) decided to tie the R&D work he has done for Magritek Ltd. in Wellington, New Zealand to a PhD with the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Center at Australian National University. He will be designing and fabricating a custom gradient coil for the new hyper-polarized xenon setup.

Danny Reed (SG) is now working for Shell in Bakersfield, CA. Will miss him at our events in Houston!

Liang Ge (SG) secured employment as a Seismic Engineer with WesternGeco Schlumberger. Congratulations!

Julian Talley (SG) graduated this fall. He got married in January and will start working for Chevron after returning from his honeymoon!

RICE UNIVERSITY NEWS

The Brockman Hall for Physics is nearing its completion. This new facility will be 110,000 sqft and will include vibration and noise controlled underground laboratories to support work in atomic, molecular and optical physics; biophysics; condensed matter physics; nanoengineering and photonics. The building allows Rice to create a state-of-the-art facility that meets the exacting requirements of modern physics and to consolidate its research in fundamental and applied physics. In addition to vibration control, laboratories in the new building will have substantially better temperature, humidity and air-flow control. The building is set to be certified LEED silver and move in is scheduled for February 2011.

PSM 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.

And don’t forget to check out our Rice PSM Facebook Site:


and become a friend!