Program Director attends CGS/PSM Biennial Meeting in Washington, DC on November 4-6, 2009
"Advancing the Nation's Competitiveness and Innovation Agenda"

Much of the U.S. economic growth over the last half century has been the result of technological advances. Looking ahead, America’s prosperity and security in the 21st century depend upon innovation, scientific discovery, and the creation of knowledge. In order to be competitive in the 21st century global economy, the U.S. needs to produce a cadre of well-rounded science professionals with deep knowledge of their subjects but also with the business skills needed to communicate effectively, manage projects, and solve problems. Professional Science Master’s (PSM) graduates contribute to a highly skilled, nimble, and entrepreneurial workforce that can enhance our capacity to innovate, discover new products and solutions, and take those products to commercial reality.

Many PSM programs have been or are being developed in response to the forces affecting institutions of higher education that encompass the need for U.S. competitiveness, globalization, increased accountability to the state for public institutions, increased competition for students, and demographic changes in the composition of graduate students. This Biennial Meeting addressed the PSM initiative’s response to these forces and the means for sustaining programs for future growth. Program Directors had the opportunity to meet with NSF and other government representatives to learn more about possible stipend funding, made available by the government for PSM students.

The NPSMA held their annual Board Meeting to review progress and to plan for the future. Four new Directors were elected and announced: Cynthia Bainton of Northeastern University, Daniel Chatham of the Keck Graduate Institute for Applied Life Sciences, John Nishio of California State University, Chico and Joseph Whittaker of Morgan State University.

The 2010 Executive Committee, elected by the board members, will consist of:
President: Elizabeth Friedman of the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago,
Vice President: Dagmar Beck of Rice University in Houston, Texas,
Convener: Cynthia Bainton of Northeastern University in Boston,
Finance Officer: Daniel Chatham of the Keck Institute in California
CORPORATE NEWS

BP Scholarship awarded to Subsurface Geoscience student Chris Ochterbeck! Congratulations to Chris for paving the way for graduating PSM students to gain the respect and acceptance from large oil-and-gas companies willing to sponsor our students. BP is joining an ever increasing number of corporations realizing our students' potential and versatility. We appreciate BP's involvement at Rice and are looking forward to a mutually beneficial and on-going relationship! Thank you, BP!

Corporate Luncheons:
Fall is recruiting season at Rice, and luncheons were attended with corporate representatives from ConocoPhillips, Nanoridge, Schlumberger, ExxonMobil, Chevron and Marathon Oil.

More visits with internship providers: Luncheons with Dr. Newell and Dr. McHugh of GSI Environmental and two of our students employed there: Nada Ahmed and Carol Liu. Visit with Nanoscale Physics student Vishwa Nellore conducting an academic internship under Dr. Emilia Morosan in Physics and Astronomy.
Visit with EADM student Alex Wagner and Dr. Bedient. Alex combined his internship with City of Houston with an ongoing project Dr. Bedient is conducting and has been able to add some research to his internship experience.

ARAMCO PERF Forum at Rice Nov. 18-20, 2009

Aramco Services Company hosted the 80th PERF Fall meeting at Rice under the theme “Industry and Academia Working Together” Numerous universities were represented at the meeting in addition to speakers from Rice University. This meeting was a great opportunity to promote discussion and interaction between university researchers, oil-and-gas companies, and to hear about current needs for environmental research and development. It was also a good event for students to attend and discuss environmental issues with professionals of the oil-and-gas industry. PSM students participated in the event, Jeff Rudnik presented a poster on work done during his internship with Chevron, and our students mingled and networked with the environmental representatives from various oil-and-gas companies.

Fall 09 and Spring 10 Career Fairs at Rice University

PSM Students attended Rice Career Fairs in large numbers visiting with corporate representatives and their recruiters. Students have to start their first semester at Rice ready to make those important corporate contacts, have their resume ready and their networking skills honed so they can be successful in securing interviews with the companies of their interest. At the time of this newsletter two students have secured internships for 2010.
PSM PROGRAM NEWS

New PSM/MBA Joint Degree Program with the Jones School of Business

To address the demand for a science education that includes a full MBA degree, Rice University is adding a new option to the existing Professional Science Master’s degrees. With cooperation of both, the highly ranked Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business and the Wiess School of Natural Sciences, a joint program was developed allowing a small group of highly proficient students to earn a joint PSM/MBA degree. The program will become available for Fall 2010.

Both, a STEM Proposal and an NSF-Stimulus proposal were submitted in Fall 2009 by the PSM Program Director in collaboration with the Dean of Natural Sciences, Dan Carson, and the PSM faculty. The national program has worked hard in attracting the attention of the government to the success of our students across the country, and has advocated for the opportunity for PSM programs nationally to apply for government funding despite the fact that we are not a research-based program. After long years of work and efforts of the CGS, NPSMA and all the PSM Directors, we were finally successful! News on the distribution of the funds will be published in Spring 2010!

New PSM Student Organization

Currently enrolled students Alex Wagner and Shibu Mathukutty took the initiative and started the new PSM Student Club. The club received the official seal from the Rice Student Activities Leadership at the beginning of the fall semester and had their first social event in December, with many more to come! All PSM students and alumni are encouraged to join, with a club contribution of $10, they will receive an “Unconventional Wisdom” Rice t-shirt!

Monthly Faculty/Student Luncheons

The popular luncheons were concluded in November with a social for faculty, students and program alumni at the end of November at Valhalla

December Student Presentations and Semester-end Reception

Student presentations were given by Gisselle Cornejo, intern of Noble Energy; Ting Hong, intern of Teledrill, Inc.; Carol Liu, intern of GIS; and Joe Mills, intern of Schlumberger.
This Fall’s presentations generated a very high interest reflected in the great attendance of corporate participants, students, colleagues, and faculty with nearly all seats of the Keck Hall auditorium filled! We appreciate the time and interest offered by the audience!

PSM Students are now actively searching for internship positions for Summer/Fall 2010. Please let us know if you have positions available!
Contact us at profms@rice.edu

PSM PROGRAM PUBLICITY

PSM program staff and faculty participated in a variety of events geared to spread the word on our program to corporate representatives and prospective students:

- **Rice Academic Fair**: Program information provided to incoming undergrad and grad students in August 2009

- **Rice Fall/Spring Career Fairs**: Visit with related corporations to introduce PSM program and students and assist in their search for internship/job opportunities (Sept. 2009/Jan. 2010)

- **7th Annual Energy & Clean Technology Venture Forum** – September 2009 - Showcasing the most promising energy technology companies. PSM Program brochure distribution and networking with showcasing company representatives.

- **PERF Forum** in November (see details on page 2)


**Fall 2009 / Spring 2010 PSM Seminar Speaker Series:**

Thank you to all our Fall Master Seminar speakers. We appreciate their time and interest!

For the spring semester we are looking forward to the following speakers:


**STUDENT RECRUITMENT**

Program Director, Dagmar Beck, attended several conferences this fall and distributed information on the Rice PSM Program at various universities:

- **2nd Quarterly NPSMA Workshop in Springfield, MA in September 2009**
  This workshop focused on evaluation of the employment survey outcome, the NSF Stimulus solicitation for science master's programs, an update on statewide implementation of PSM programs, key program practices, peer review process, NPSMA Best Practices Seal of Approval initiative, and concluding with a dialogue with area employers and regional PSM Alumni and students.

- Student presentations and faculty visits at **College of William and Mary**, and attendance at Graduate and Professional School Fair at **University of Virginia**, meeting with science students and faculty.

- **Attendance of CGS/PSM Biennial Conference in Washington, D.C. November, 2009**
  (See front-page article)

- **Attendance at “Water in the Houston Metabolism – Houston’s Water Needs and Water Quality for this Century”**
  The Shell Center for Sustainability at Rice University considered these and other questions on water at this conference in October. National and local experts came together to address questions about water, one of our vital resources, and Houston’s sustainable development, growth, natural environment, water, health, and the policies that can make a difference. The Shell Center for Sustainability in partnership with the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy’s Science and Technology Policy Program and the Health Policy Forum hosted this second annual conference on sustainability in Houston series. PSM brochures were distributed at this event.

**PSM STUDENT NEWS**

**PSM Students and alumni joined Bill Schleizer**, first graduate of EADM track, for a dinner during his visit to Houston for a conference. Bill is the Assistant Director for the **Delta Institute of Chicago**.
Internships have been concluded:

**EADM students:** Carol Liu with GSI Environmental, Jeff Rudnik with *Chevron*, Jennifer Andjelich with ExxonMobil, Alex Wagner with the *City of Houston*, Scott Rauschhuber with *UH*

**SG students:** Gisselle Cornejo with *Noble Energy*, Joe Mills with *Schlumberger*, Liang Ge with *Baker Hughes*, Ting Hong with *Teledrill, Inc.*, Chris Ochterbeck with *Chevron*

**NP students:** Vishwa Nellore with *Rice's Physics and Astronomy* Dept./Dr. Morosan, Bret Halbe with Nanoridge, Sona Joseph with *Rice's Mems Dept.* under Dr. Jun Lou, and Dana Akilbekova with the *Republic Diagnostic Center* in Kazakhstan.

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

**Incoming Spring ’10 Students:**

We welcome two new students enrolled in the program as of this spring semester:

**Environmental Analysis and Decision Making:** Brandon Mooney

**Subsurface Geoscience,** Max Zhang – employed with Baker Hughes, part-time student

**ALUMNI NEWS**

**EADM Alumni:**
- **Andrea Crumpacker,** Data Management & Analysis Section Manager for Weston Solutions, Inc. in California got married in October 2009!
- **Jennifer Andjelich** gave her “yes” in December 2009!
- **Myriam McCharque and Danny Mills** got married on January 23, 2010 in New Orleans.

- Congratulations to all our PSM couples and good luck in 2010!!

**Nanoscale Alumni:**
- **Damir Aidarkhanov** returned to Kazakhstan after graduation and is now working for the Kazakhstan Sustainable Energy Fund.
- **Willfred (Billy) Kittler:** After graduation in May 2009, Billy accepted a position as a Magnetic Resonance Applications Engineer for Magritek Ltd. In Wellington, New Zealand

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*Newsletter issued by Dagmar Beck, PSM Program Director 1/10*
Subsurface Geoscience Alumni:

- **Brian Cornette**: Brian accepted a position with MicroSeismic Inc. They are a geophysical service company that analyzes hydraulic fracturing during completions for major companies to help improve accuracy in subsequent drilling projects. Congratulations!

**BOARD OF AFFILIATES NEWS**

We are delighted to welcome **Jim Stevenson with Chevron** as a new member of our Board of Affiliates. Jim is a Senior Consulting Scientist with Catchlight Energy LLC (a Weyerhaeuser/Chevron Joint Venture)

The **2010 PSM Board of Affiliates Meeting** is scheduled for February 18, 2010 at Rice University.

**RICE NEWS**

**Brockman Hall for Physics - Building Progress**: All construction activities are moving right along schedule. The third floor is now under construction!

Barbara and David Gibbs Recreation and Wellness Center opened in September!

Students no longer have an excuse not to stay fit at Rice. This new facility offers everything anybody could ever wish for! Hope to see you at this great facility working out!!

**PSM WEB SITE**

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.