Collaboration between Natural Science and Engineering continues to strengthen

The School of Engineering is aiming to improve the experience of students enrolled in the professional master’s track by providing enhanced services for these students, building a community within the School of Engineering, as well as seeking new avenues of publicizing the program to attract more highly qualified students to its applicant pool. To that end, the School of Engineering decided to collaborate with Dagmar Beck, director of the Professional Science Master’s program in the Wiess School of Natural Sciences, who has gained extensive experience building the professional science master’s program into a successful and integrated unit of the School. She has agreed to work with the eight engineering departments on this venture. “Our professional master’s students spend a shorter time here on campus, and they have a different way of experiencing Rice,” says associate dean of engineering Bart Sinclair.

Dagmar Beck, in collaboration with a new liaison coordinator, Agustina Fernández-Moya, have made great strides this spring, meeting with the engineering departments to learn more about the curriculum and goals of each professional master’s degree. Departments have added business and management electives to their course requirements and together with the new professional seminar series, students will be able to enhance their skill-set to pursue roles in engineering leadership in industry and business. Dagmar and Agustina have started marketing the programs, and have held their first social events. New events to bring all professional master’s students in science and engineering together with MBA students are planned for the fall semester.

“Giving our professional master’s students personalized attention and opportunities to gather, learn and visit as a group has been a great success for us in Natural Sciences,” says Dagmar Beck. “In collaboration with the students, we have created our own community on the Rice campus. The PSM ‘family’ connects the students and provides a network of people who support each other.”

Offering these students a positive experience as they work toward their degree is an important component to the program’s continued success. “We are also looking at ways to better target prospective students for the program, and ensure that students find a degree plan that works best for them.”

The focus and attention now given to the professional master’s students enhances the quality of the programs and the value they deliver to them, which in turn will result in satisfied graduate students who will appreciate the education they receive from Rice University and will be willing to stay involved with the university and the students.
Fernández-Moya joins EPMP staff

Agustina (Tina) Fernández-Moya, a certified public accountant with experience in higher education, has been named the first program coordinator of the Engineering Professional Master’s Program (EPMP) in the School of Engineering at Rice.

“Tina’s position will serve the existing professional master’s degree programs in the school by supporting their efforts to attract qualified students and provide them with a richer experience at Rice. She’ll facilitate networking and internships with local industry, and will help the programs looking to grow their enrollments get their message out to prospective students,” Bart Sinclair, associate dean of engineering, said.

She will also work with the staff of the professional science master’s program on activities that benefit students in both engineering and natural sciences.

Read the full story here: http://engineering.rice.edu/agustina/

First students blast off in new Space Studies track

This new degree track is focused on training students in Space Science and Engineering with the intent of creating new options for engineering and science students interested in working in the space technology industry or related government entities, e.g. NASA, as well as governmental relations positions in non-profit organizations, industry, and academic institutions. The track is supported by a strong board of affiliates from space related industry and organizations in addition to the Rice Space Institute. Students will be able to participate in a space seminar, the Space Frontiers Lectures series, which is designed to introduce students and the general public to the wide array of issues involved in the pursuit of an advanced presence in space: international policy, technology innovation, commercialization, biological impacts and space science. Fall speakers were Bobak Ferdowski and Ravi Prakash, aerospace engineers from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory; Gene Kranz, retired NASA Flight Director; Alan Bean, NASA astronaut and artist, and many others.

In collaboration with NASA, our program is also working to establish opportunities for NASA’s Top Gun Mission Operations employees to finish a master’s degree at Rice.

Mike Massimino, astronaut on loan, at the Natural Sciences Open House celebration.

Cultural workshop series enhanced

A cultural workshop is offered to all incoming international Professional Master’s students in science and engineering. The series, which takes place August 14 and 15, is designed to help students learn more about U.S. culture in general and U.S. corporate culture specifically. As our professional master’s students are expected to secure internships as part of the degree, we want them to be ready to hit the ground running and compete with domestic students at career events and corporate recruitment opportunities.

Wednesday, August 14

- Cultural foundations and U.S. culture
- Social interactions and networking
- Professional skills related to interviewing and networking
- Job search skills

Thursday, August 15

Part 1

- Behavioral interviewing and mock interview series

Part 2

- Expressing agreement and disagreement appropriately
- Writing emails in a cross-cultural context
- Information on OPT/CPT – working in the U.S. (presented by the Office of International Studies)

All students have received summer reading assignments to be ready to start at Rice with a focus on their professional growth and development. International students have been receiving cultural information for reading and viewing on the internet for better preparation for U.S. culture and language.

SPRING SEMINAR SPEAKERS

The PSM Spring Seminar Series welcomed:

- Alan Schwartzband - ExxonMobil
- Nicole Van den Heuvel - CCD
- Flemming Mengel - SWN Energy
- Myriam Mills - DM Environmental
- Ron Huijsman - HUCO Consulting
- Mark Henrichs - Greater Houston Manufacturing Association
- Sean Self - Nimbic Systems
- Tommy Cooper - Cooper Consulting
- Steve Ford - NovoSci Co.
- Bryan Olin - Cyberonics
- Kitty Coleman - Protean Consulting

The newly-established Professional Development Speaker Series for the EPMP students held lunch seminars with:

- David French - Apache
- Bryan Hassin - Entrepreneur
- Jim Gregory - Gay and Brown Engineering
CORPORATE NEWS

OUTREACH

Funds from the Baker Hughes Scholarship were made available to selected F13 PSM incoming students and recipients will be announced at the beginning of the fall semester.

Program representatives attended the following events, distributing flyers and information on the Professional Master’s programs in science and engineering:

- Rice Spring Career Fair
- Offshore Technology Conference 2013
- Rice Career Center Board of Affiliates Meeting
- Rice Electrical Engineering Affiliates Meeting
- Rice High Performance Computing Workshop at Engineering School
- Rice Alliance Texas Life Science Venture Forum
- Space Access Conference
- BioHouston Breakfast Forum

The 211 attendees at the annual Corporate Reception were greeted by Dan Carson, Dean of Natural Sciences, Paula Sanders and Brian Clark, and welcomed by program director, Dagmar Beck. Corporate representatives included program alumni who have been very supportive by giving back to the program as mentors, speakers, and advisors. Students enjoyed visiting with board members, corporate representatives, faculty and alumni, and were highly appreciative of the opportunities this event provided them. Many secured internships after the reception using contacts they made at the event. Guests were enthusiastic in their comments: “great event”, “such a professional group”, “amazing how this program has been growing stronger and stronger each year”. We thank them for their time and interest in our programs at Rice!

BOARD NEWS

EPMP Board of Affiliates created

A new board of affiliates was created for the EPMP programs with representatives from companies, such as:

- TwoSigma Investments
- TrellisWare Technologies
- Pros Pricing
- Intel
- Edge Engineering
- BP
- Exxon Mobil
- Shell International
- Epic Systems
- Schlumberger
- Exxon
- Occidental Petroleum
- Shell
- Baker Hughes
- ViaSat

We appreciate the interest of our board members in Rice and our programs and look forward to working with them to improve our programs and guide our students.

PSM Board of Affiliates meets

This spring’s Annual Board of Affiliates meeting was well attended and very productive. The importance of providing project-oriented classes, enhanced communication training, and guidance in selecting an appropriate business elective for each track was highlighted by the members. Attendance of professional conferences, career fairs and professional development workshops was recommended, and the new PSM initiatives for better preparation of foreign students was commended by attendees.

Following recommendations by the board to reinforce and strengthen the BHP and NP programs, we have added two new members during the last 6 months. We are delighted to welcome Dr. William Cohn, Director for Minimally Invasive Surgical Technology at the Texas Heart Institute, and Bio-Houston President, Jacqueline Northcut, and look forward to working with both of them. We are in the process of determining another board member in support of our Nanoscale Physics track.
PUBLICITY

Advertising continued at a smart clip this spring with ads placed in student papers at Baylor, UT Austin, Berkeley, Texas Medical Center News, Trinity and the Rice Thresher. Ads for both the engineering and the science environmental programs were run in E-Environmental Magazine. Professional Master’s programs will be featured in First Look, a magazine for incoming Rice freshman, with the intention of raising awareness of options they have with the wide selection of professional master’s programs available to them at Rice. Information on the Academic Advising web site will also help to disburse this information to undergrad students here on campus.

Special ads were displayed in aerospace-related web sites to advertise our Space Studies track, and in the new Cool School fall issue from Sierra Magazine.

Ongoing on-line ads in gradschools.com, Google, and AIP GradschoolShopper were renewed to ensure that information also reaches students nationwide and outside of the U.S. Furthermore, faculty encouraged us to research and analyze international recruitment opportunities, especially in India and South America.

Catching up with EPMP publicity efforts

To bring marketing up to speed for our engineering programs, emphasis was given to development of a variety of marketing venues and selection of promotional materials:

- Individual program flyers were completed and distributed to departments/faculty for distribution at appropriate conferences, talks and meetings
- The design of a comprehensive program flyer including all engineering programs for general advertisement and distribution was completed
- New program-specific web site was populated with important information and opened to the public under new URL: www.epmp.rice.edu
- On-line advertisement with gradschools.com was completed to get the word out on our professional programs to a global audience
- Ad was developed for fall issue of the First Look Magazine for incoming freshmen

During meetings with different departments, a variety of U.S. universities were identified to target for individual program advertisements in their student papers and/or for recruitment trips in fall. Furthermore, we researched and analyzed international recruitment opportunities to determine how to attract highly qualified students to our programs.

We also have evaluated promotional items and decided on a selection of pens, lanyards, and book bags which will be distributed to students, corporate guests, and prospective students. These nice give-aways will also serve us well at graduate fairs, trade shows, conferences, etc., to advertise our programs.

Enrollment Update

PSM
Welcoming for the fall semester
37 students

EPMP
Eight engineering departments welcome
94 students

Corporate Reception 2013
GENERAL PROGRAM NEWS

Communication training
To increase opportunities for our students to participate in communication and professional development workshops, we are collaborating with CWOVC—Center for Written, Oral, and Visual Communication—who will offer sessions such as:

- Designing effective PowerPoint slides
- Delivering effective oral presentations
- Writing in a professional tone
- Resume writing
- Interviewing skills

With the help of CCD, we are offering extra resume workshops to make sure students’ resumes are ready for corporate review.

The selection of communication/business-related coursework has been expanded and Jerlyn Mardis will now teach ENGI 510/NSCI 520, Technical and Managerial Communication, in both spring and fall.

Science and Engineering

LECTURE CAPTURE
The first part of the lecture capture pilot project has been completed with ESCI 444 with Steve Danbom, and NSCI 511 with Kirstin Matthews, plus various guest speakers. Many lessons were learned and steps taken to improve the capture experience, such as purchasing high-quality film equipment; improving encoding times, tracking, and microphones; hiring student helpers; improving classroom evaluation; and training faculty. PSM e-education coordinator, Shari Smith, collaborated with IT as much as possible; she is also working with other e-learning efforts across campus to better share resources and improve video storage options, repositories use, and resolve copyright issues.

This fall, we will focus on faculty in the School of Engineering, capturing the following lectures:
CEVE
Phil de Blanc - CEVE 520
Jim Blackburn - CEVE 502
MEMS
Leroy Chiao and Steven Rickman - MECH 599 (3rd section)

We are in the process of identifying appropriate classrooms, conducting room evaluations for possible improvements, and researching software/platforms to host the captured courses.

Here is a clip of one of our recordings of ESCI 444 with Steve Danbom: https://vimeo.com/65255126

Student recruitment
Program director Dagmar Beck participated in several meetings and conferences promoting Rice programs to science and engineering undergrads:

- Attended PSM Stakeholders Meeting, Claremont, CA
- Recruited at UC Irvine
- Attended Space Access Conference in Phoenix, AZ; promoted Space Studies program and aerospace engineering at Conference and at ASU
- Attended NPSMA Data Science Workshop, Worcester, MA
- Promoted PSM /EPMP at Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Program administrator Emalie Thok also attended the NPSMA Workshop in Worcester where she had the opportunity to meet colleagues from PSM programs across the nation and learn about the activities of programs who have developed data science tracks—Illinois Institute of Technology, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, University of Chicago—or are in the process of developing new programs. Rice’s School of Engineering has a data science and engineering degree on its books, the Master of Computational Science and Engineering, which is an interdisciplinary program combining classes from statistics, computer science and computational math to prepare students for a career as big data analysts and/or computational engineer.

PSM hosted preview days in March
The PSM office hosted a group of 14 students this March for our annual Preview Days. Students joined us to learn more about Rice and our program to help them make their graduate school decision. Our beautiful campus never fails to dazzle our visitors, beautiful weather and a great fast paced program kept visitors busy. We visited with faculty, participated in tours of labs and institutes, networked with students and alumni, and experienced life outside the hedges with a visit to downtown and the Alley theater. 80% of our visitors accepted our admission offer and will start our program this fall.
STUDENT NEWS

Students form new NPSMA chapter

New student club leaders Anubhav Dixit (NP) and John Varghese (BHP) have been collaborating with the NPSMA to establish a student chapter of the NPSMA to improve networking opportunities for PSM students across the nation. Student engagement and participation will be needed to make this chapter a success.

Internship news brief

Enrolled, second-year students are signed up for internships with a variety of internship providers this summer and fall. We thank Apache Corp., Halliburton/Landmark, ION Geophysical, Baker Hughes, INEXS, Element Markets, City of Houston, Nanoridge, RollsRoyce, Medical Informatics Corp., Institute for Public Health, Rice Baker Institute for Public Policy, and M.D. Anderson for helping our students to gain work experience. Internship visits are under way this summer.

NPSMA NEWS

NPSMA’s new president, David King, Director, SUNY PSM Consortium; Professor of History and Dean, Graduate Studies & Research, State University of New York, Oswego, laid out the program for the NPSMA at the beginning of the year and recognized the service of the outgoing members of the Board: Dagmar Beck and Joseph Whittaker, and welcomed all new board participants.

He currently is working with the KGI/NPSMA rebate grant from the Sloan Foundation to encourage more institutional and PSM system memberships in NPSMA. The organization has held a successful workshop in Worcester, MA, this spring and is now in high gear preparing the Annual National Conference, which will be highlighted with a milestone event planned in Washington D.C. on November 12 to celebrate the 300th PSM program and the 15th Anniversary of PSM programs. This will be followed by a pre-conference workshop on cybersecurity, held in Arlington, VA, on November 13, and will conclude with the annual conference with the theme: High Impact Partnerships: Building on 15 years of Innovative Professional Science Master’s Education”, on November 14 and 15.

NPSMA is also aiming at enhancing collaboration among the national leaders of the PSM movement including NPSMA, the KGI/PSM Office, the University Systems’ PSM Consortium, the Sloan Conference Call Group, and foster advocacy for the PSM at the national, state and regional level. NPSMA is continuously trying to expand industry relationships and advance PSM partnerships.

David King reiterated: “This is a very exciting and challenging time for both the PSM and the NPSMA. In a relatively short time span in higher education, we have seen very impressive growth in the PSM movement toward the registration of the 300th PSM degree program very soon. There is momentum for significant change in STEM graduate education, that we are committed to continue. As a professional organization for the PSM, we have the unique opportunity to advocate for this unique hybrid degree that has been widely acknowledged as a change agent for higher education/business partnerships to promote economic and work force development. We also serve as a major provider of professional development and best practices for the PSM community.”
ALUMNI NEWS

BRHP

Dorine Omondo moved to Savannah, GA this summer, where her husband has accepted a teaching position. She will search for an outreach position with health organizations in the area.

EADM

Neha Dhanik has moved to New York, where her husband has joined Regeneron, a pharmaceutical company based in NY. She will look for a new job with an environmental organization.

Natalie Irvin was promoted to Manager of Environmental Engineering at the Valero Wilmington Refinery.

In 2013, Carol Liu changed employment from DNV to Halliburton where she is working as a reservoir engineer.

SG

Liang Ge took a new position with ION Geophysical in 2013.

Danny Reed transferred to the Shell office in New Orleans.

Family News

Aditya Patel (NP) was married in January 2013 to Namita.

Chris Odezulu (SG) joined hands in marriage with Angela.

Summer Piantes (EADM) and her husband welcomed their second baby girl, Grace Eva, who was born on May 30.

Seun Olawole (SG) and his wife welcomed a new baby boy, Toluwafe Enoch Olawole on March 22, 2013, pictured here with brothers Tobiloba and Timileyin.

Brian Troutman (NP) tied the knot with Falanda.

RICE UNIVERSITY NEWS

Rice breaks ground on new tennis facility

BY DAVID RUTH

In late spring, Rice University held a ceremonial groundbreaking for the new George R. Brown Tennis Complex, which is located on campus near Rice Stadium in West Lot No. 3.

“We are so pleased to make this investment in the future of tennis at Rice, and I am personally grateful for the generosity of some of our most loyal supporters, including Ralph and Becky O’Connor,” Rice University President David Leebron said. “This facility is another way in which we support our athletics programs to make Rice a premier destination for some of the very best student-athletes in the world.”

The new facility will have 14 tennis courts, coaches’ offices, locker rooms, training and equipment rooms and covered spectator seating. Competition-quality lights will give Rice the ability to play matches at night, and the court configuration will give coaches better visual access to monitor team play. Spectators will benefit from seating that allows for viewing multiple matches. The new facility will also accommodate intramural activities and the Rice Tennis Club.

“Rice Tennis is taking a huge step forward today as we break ground on a facility that will certainly become one of the finest of its kind in the nation,” said Rick Greenspan, director of Athletics and Recreation. “Our men’s and women’s teams have an established reputation for excellence, and their new home will be a tremendous asset in adding to their legacies. The George R. Brown Tennis Center will allow us to host high-profile events in a fan-friendly environment and grow our fan base and promote the game of college tennis.”

The new $8 million complex is named for the late George R. Brown, former chair of the Rice Board of Trustees. Brown was a prominent Houston businessman and philanthropist who served on the Rice board for more than 25 years, from 1943 to 1968.

“This facility will be second to none and will be a place that all of our players will be proud to call their home court,” said Efe Ustundag, men’s head tennis coach. “When you combine these facilities with the chance to receive a world-class education, we have everything that the elite tennis programs around the country have to offer. We also will be able to attract a number of quality tennis events in the future as well as organize significant events to promote Rice tennis throughout the community.”
Welcome to our new Rice owls!

Be sure to check our web site regularly as we keep it updated with new information, resources, and upcoming events:

www.profms.rice.edu

For comments or questions, please contact us at:

profms@rice.edu

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