Rice PSM track updates

The new track in Bioscience Research and Health Policy got off to a good start this fall with four students enrolled. Students and faculty met at the end of the semester to discuss course work and internship opportunities, and to give feedback on strengths and weaknesses detected during the first semester of this track.

The Subsurface Geoscience track experienced another year of increased interest and applications from students, bringing up the total number to 20 enrolled students.

The Environmental Analysis and Decision Making track holds a steady enrollment and high interest, and our Nanoscale Physics track gets more and more interest from industry. Employment and internship placement for all tracks is at 99%!

NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTER’S ASSOCIATION NEWS

NPSMA activities in 2011

Dagmar Beck, Rice’s PSM Program Director, is ending her year as President of NPSMA with many accomplishments and exciting developments to look forward to in 2012.

The NPSMA held well-attended Regional Best Practice Workshops in Baltimore, MD; Minneapolis, MN and Buffalo, NY; and participated in a variety of conferences such as SACNAS, HENAAC, AESS/CEDD Environmental, and others.

NPSMA added two new Advisory Board members, Shane Barrow with American Conservation Experience, and Jerry Rovner with Chevron, bringing its membership up to 14. The annual Advisory Board Meeting was held at the Education Trust Fund in Washington, D.C. in November.

The Council of Graduate Schools has requested the submission of proposals for an organization to take over the affiliation process for new PSM programs. Once affiliated, programs can use the PSM logo and be listed on the PSM program web site. So far CGS has reviewed new programs and ensured that they adhere to the PSM curriculum and quality standards developed by Sloan and CGS. However, CGS no longer has funding to continue the affiliation process of PSM programs. NPSMA has entered into a partnership with Lee Jackson, Chancellor of the University of North Texas System, and submitted a proposal to CGS to take over this responsibility.

NPSMA added a new Alumni Connection Board Director, Michael Morad, who will focus his attention on engaging PSM alumni nationwide. Other NPSMA activities included the creation of a speaker’s bureau, updates to the by-laws, application and receipt of NSF funding for one of our workshops, stabilization of NPSMA financials, start-up of a nationwide marketing campaign, expansion, and creation of new relationships to strengthen the association.

This was indeed a very busy year for the President, the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, and recognition is in order for the hard work every single member put into furthering and strengthening the Association and its mission to support PSM programs, its students and alumni. Make sure to become a member and supporter of NPSMA! ■
Baker Hughes scholarships

Three scholarships received from Baker Hughes earlier this year were awarded to Lisha Xi, Subsurface Geoscience; Carlos Solano, Environmental Analysis and Decision Making; and Jianbo Chen, Nanoscale Physics. Thank you again to Baker Hughes for their continued interest and support! As a small token of appreciation, we invited Baker Hughes to a lunch with the awardees, faculty and staff.

Corporate luncheons

This fall’s corporate connections included several luncheons with students and corporate representatives on campus, but also visits to our interns at their work locations:

A campus luncheon with Paradigm, BP, Element Markets, Protean Performance Solutions, Chevron, Schlumberger, Hart Energy, and others kept students in contact with corporate representatives, enabling them to practice their networking skills, learn about various industries, and build a library of contacts.

Devon Energy campus visit

The Department of Earth Science and the Rice PSM program invited Devon Energy to campus for an information exchange. Devon gave an overview of the company’s activities and their workforce needs. We presented information about the research capabilities, educational opportunities and course work offered by the Earth Science Department. The Subsurface Geoscience curriculum was highlighted with its interdisciplinary coursework, the business/communication component, and the required internship providing graduates with the tools to be successful in a business environment. Devon was invited to participate in the Earth Science Department’s in-house recruitment sessions and to consider our students as potential interns and/or employees.

External review of Subsurface Geoscience

The Earth Science Department conducted an Industry Review of the Subsurface Geoscience Track this fall. The participation of Jorge Faz, Occidental Petroleum; Don Paul, USC Energy Institute; Johan Robertsson, Schlumberger; Martha Barnes and Eric Scott, Marathon Oil; and Ross Hill, Chevron, was highly appreciated.

Our industry participants spent a day reviewing the program’s history, current science curriculum, cohort courses, relationships with industry, and the employment records of the students, as well as collecting feedback from all stakeholders.

Professional Master’s seminar fall speakers

We would like to thank our fall seminar speakers for their time to come and speak to our students: Najib Abusalbi, Toni Smith, Richard Mills from Schlumberger; John Weust, Marathon Oil; Kirstin Matthews, Rice Baker Institute; Ken Shine, UT Systems, Office of Health Affairs; Jackie Hing, Rice Center of Career Development; Rick Bost, ERM Environmental Resource Management; Robert Shaddox, Winstead Nanotechnology; Gaurav Agraval, Baker Hughes; and Ellen Clark, Chevron.

Thank you also to our communication faculty Mary Puruganan and Liz Eich for the useful and practical communication seminars they held this fall for our students.
CORPORATE NEWS

**Intership visits confirm student talent**

Visits to internship providers are a great opportunity to discuss our program in more detail with company representatives and spread the word about our students and our program within the corporate world. Thank you to all the companies who provided a great learning environment for our students this year!

Intern visits confirmed the talents of our students—providers were impressed with the skill-set of the PSM interns and their adaptability to the corporate environment.

**Visits were completed to:**
- Baker Hughes
- Halliburton/Landmark
- Wood McKenzie
- Shell
- Kerogen Exploration
- PGS
- Element Markets
- Trinity Consulting
- N3DBio
- Nanoridge
- Methodist Research Center

Mike Castello and Matt Prudhomme at Shell

Jayshree Srivinasan at Baker Hughes

Antara Goswami at Kerogen Explorations

Neha Kathayat at Trinity Consulting

David Timm at N3DBio

Murtada Al-Habib at Halliburton/Landmark
**STUDENT RECRUITMENT**

**Incoming fall 2011 students**

This fall we welcomed 18 new students joining the 4 tracks of our program. One more student will start in the spring 2012 semester.

**Rice PSM preview days**

Students have been attending company information sessions and interviews offered by the Earth Science department and the Career Development Center. The Fall Career Fair was well attended and students made many solid contacts.

**BOARD NEWS**

We welcomed new board member Dr. Ken Shine in Fall ’11 to represent the Bioscience Research and Health Policy track.

Dr. Shine is the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs of the University of Texas System and has extensive experience in biochemical sciences and research, medicine and health. He is serving on various boards such as the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences—of which he is the President at this time, The Academia Scientiarum et Artium Europaea and others. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Shine on our board.

**PSM PUBLICITY**

- Dr. Alison Henning represented the SG program during a workforce preparation session at the annual GSA Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota in October.

- Rice PSM program brochures were distributed at this year’s SACNAS Conference in California, and the HENAAC Conference in Florida.

- The program was represented at the Biotech Symposium and the Health Professional Fair at Rice University in October.

- Students attended the Rice Alliance Energy and Clean Technology Forum and Life Sciences Forum this fall, which always offers a good opportunity to make brochures available and network with corporate representatives.

- PSM brochures informed alumni and other visitors about our program during the recent NSCI Open House.

- Program information was presented at a meeting with the Greater Houston Partnership.

- During the fall semester, student paper ads were placed at Baylor, LSU, Tulane, UT Austin, Texas A&M, Virginia Tech and Notre Dame.

- Annual nationwide coverage was achieved by ads in Google; Grad schools.com; Petersons; Sierra – Cool Schools Magazine; AIP and the E-Magazine.

**JANUARY 2012**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**PSM Spring Orientation**

Tuesday, January 3 • 9 am

Dean’s Office (GRB E100)

Classes Start

Monday, January 9

Spring Registration Continues

Monday - Friday, January 9-13

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, January 16

NO CLASSES
PSM Program News

New tracks being developed in areas of space and energy

Rice faculty is exploring the development of new tracks related to the space and the energy industries. Several faculty and industry luncheons and roundtable discussions gathered feedback from industry in order to determine workforce needs and curriculum requirements for possible new tracks in these areas.

Space Studies

Dr. David Alexander (Physics and Astronomy) and Dr. Andrew Meade (Engineering) have been actively collaborating with representatives from a variety of space-related industries and organizations, forming a new Space Advisory Board consisting of 15 members. In collaboration with the board, the faculty and staff developed a degree proposal and submitted it to the Graduate Council in December 2011.

Integrated Energy Systems

A degree track related to energy has been of great interest to Rice for a long time, and it gathered momentum last year during a conference with Texas Energy Providers. Feedback from this conference resulted in an initiative to develop an energy studies track as part of the PSM Program. Faculty from Natural Sciences and Engineering have been working hand-in-hand to develop a suitable curriculum. Several meetings with industry representatives were held to get a better feeling of what type of course work is needed to train people at the intersection of an energy industry fueled by carbon and non-carbon resources.

The development of this new track is also guided by the Provost’s Taskforce Initiative in Energy and the Environment to ensure that it will be in line with Rice’s goals for research and outreach activities. Several faculty from the School of Natural Sciences, School of Engineering, and Jones School for Business were identified as lead faculty for the new track. PSM Program Director, Dagmar Beck, will be collaborating with them to develop a degree proposal for such a new track, envisioned to be offered in Fall 2013.

Possible name change for Nanoscale Physics track

Since the last board meeting, discussions have been underway with faculty about changing the track’s name to Nanoscale Sciences. This would raise student awareness that besides a physics component, this track allows focus on areas such as nano-materials, nano-optics/photonics, and nano-bio.

PSM Student Club news

Under the leadership of PSM Club President Matt Prudhomme and Vice President Kristen Frederick, the club’s activities level rose tremendously this year. Students joined an intramural softball team, held regular PSM family dinners, attended country western dance lessons, and organized a PSM Thanksgiving party. Students also enjoyed Megan Weintraut’s (EADM) performance in the “Points of Contact” dance show. Students gathered at the end of the fall semester for a “Secret Santa” gift exchange and a semester-end social.

PSM program/course updates

NSCI 610 Management for Science and Engineering is now offered Spring and Fall due to high demand for this class.

NSCI 511 Science Policy and Ethics was updated and moved to a new time slot by Dr. Kristin Matthews, our course lecturer from the Baker Institute for Public Policy.

New courses, such as Geological Field Methods and Well Logging and Petrophysics, were created for the Subsurface Geoscience track and are now part of the revised curriculum. The first Imperial Barrel contest was concluded in 2011 with a group consisting of PSM students and traditional master’s/Ph.D. students. In spring 2012 a new team will tackle this competition and we count on an excellent performance by our PSM student team!

Students in the Bioscience Research and Health Policy track just finished their first semester of course work. A review meeting with faculty was held to gather feedback from the students and evaluate course work and discuss issues that arose during the semester.
ALUMNI NEWS

Two Student/Alumni Socials were held this fall with great attendance from our local alumni who are a great resource for our students. Not only do alumni represent a “foot in the door” at companies, but they are also valuable resources for information on courses, internships, interviewing, and companies.

Alumni updates

Shilpi Desai (EADM) left ERM to accept a position as Environmental Engineer at Shell Exploration & Production Company.

Brian Cornette (SG) accepted a new position with JD Rockies Resources Limited (JDR), a subsidiary of the Itochu Corporation, one of four Japanese conglomerations. The company is currently involved in a joint venture with Fidelity in the Niobrara Shale in Colorado, where Brian is performing seismic, log, and petro-physical interpretations as a geologist.

Carol Liu (EADM) accepted a full-time job offer from DNV, while still trying to finish her Ph.D. on a part-time basis.

Joe Mills (SG) is now working for Repsol—an oil and gas corporation headquartered in Madrid, Spain—carrying out activities in more than 35 countries in the field of exploration, production, refining and marketing.

Padraig Moloney (NP) finished his Ph.D. in Materials Science at Rice. Congratulations!

Sona Joseph (NP) took family medical leave to have her second daughter who was born on August 17. She will be returning to Methodist Research Center in Spring 2012.

Dorine Omondo gave birth to little baby Robert on December 8th! Congratulations!

Wedding fever for PSM students

Carol Liu (EADM) and Brian Cornette (SG) were married on Nov 12, 2011 in Houston, Texas.

Hemtej Gullapalli (NP) married his fiancé Radhika this summer in a traditional Indian wedding ceremony.

Zhou Zhou (NP) married Rice graduate Cen-bi Liu this November also in Houston.

Jackson Myers (NP) and Vanessa Yataco-Marquez also tied the knot this fall in Houston, Texas.
Rice trustees approve new football facility

The Rice University Board of Trustees approved a $44.5 million proposal Thursday to build a new two-story football facility at the south end of Rice Stadium and to improve the stadium facilities and experience. The project is contingent on fundraising.

The new 80,000-square-foot structure will house training and locker rooms, the Rice Athletic Hall of Fame, a sports medicine center for all student-athletes, offices for the coaching and support staffs and a room for news conferences and other meetings. The proposal includes plans to upgrade parts of the stadium by demolishing the structures currently at the south end, including the R Room that houses the Hall of Fame, replacing restrooms and ticket booths, and building eight suites in the south zone.