Rice Centennial Celebration
On October 2012, Rice University celebrated its first one hundred years of achievement with an array of lectures and discussions from thought leaders, world-premiere musical and arts performances, and festivities of all kinds. The Centennial Celebration was among the most vibrant events ever held at Rice University, as thousands of Rice alumni, friends and supporters from Houston and across the globe gathered to celebrate the strength of our community, to applaud the achievements that marked our first century, and to set the stage for our second.

PSM Program celebrates 10th anniversary during Centennial
This year was also the PSM Program’s 10th anniversary! Ten years ago we enrolled our first three students, one in our Nanoscale Physics track and two in our Environmental Analysis and Decision Making track! We celebrated the occasion as part of the Centennial Open House of the Wiess School of Natural Sciences with faculty, students, and alumni. The program has experienced a steady growth over these years and has gained respect and support from faculty and industry. We are looking forward to continuing to strengthen our relationships with corporations and to provide them with a workforce ready to hit the ground running once employed!
CORPORATE NEWS

Interaction with corporations is one of the most important mission of our program, and we are working hard to build new relationships and to maintain and strengthen existing ones. The past six months saw lots of activities with corporate representatives:

Summer intern visits

Visits were completed to Rice/SSPEED Center, ExxonMobil, UT Center of Public Health, N3D Biosciences, Digisonics, GSI Environmental, BHP Billiton, Total and others.

Visits at the internship provider company are a great opportunity to discuss our program in more detail with the internship provider and to spread the word to a larger group within a company. Thank you to all companies who provided a great learning environment for our students this year!

Megan Weintraut at GSI Environmental
Jim Blackburn, Megan Weintraut at SSPEED
Ali Alireza at ExxonMobil
Danny Weisman at ExxonMobil
Dorine Omondo at Institute for Public Health
John Varghese at Digisonics
Jianbo Chen at N3D Biosciences
Hunter Lockhart at BHP Billiton
Gulce Dinc at Total
CORPORATE NEWS

Corporate luncheons

Fall Corporate Luncheons gave students a great opportunity to visit and network with representatives from Deloitte, AGI, Nanoridge, Cyberonics, Chevron, Burns & McDonnell, M.D. Anderson, NanoTox, and others.

PSM seminar speakers

Thank you to all our fall seminar speakers:

- Jackie Hing, Rice Career Development Center
- Najib Abusalbi, Corporate University Relations Manager, Schlumberger
- Stephanie Barczyk, Senior Toxicologist, URS Consultants
- Terence Quinn and Rustom Mody, VP Technology, Baker Hughes
- Phil de Blanc, GSI Environmental
- Lauren Merkle, University Relations, Wyle Company
- Amanda Hackler, Science Education and Outreach Manager

Corporate scholarships received

This year we are proud to announce that our program received scholarships from three strong supporters of our program and our students:

Chevron, Schlumberger, and Baker Hughes

The support of these companies strengthens our program, assists us in attracting more qualified and highly motivated students to our program tracks and reflects interest in the skill set we are providing our students to prepare them better for the corporate environment.

We are delighted and absolutely grateful to our supporters! Once students have been selected for all scholarships, an announcement will be published, and individual luncheons with the corporate representatives will be arranged to celebrate these scholarship awards.

Thank you to all who were instrumental in securing this funding for our program!

BOARD NEWS

We would like to welcome our new board member Erik Scott with Talisman Energy.

The Annual Board Meeting is scheduled for February 20th, 2013.
Student recruitment

This fall we recruited in California, visiting universities in Bakersfield, Fresno, Monterey, and Santa Barbara; in November we traveled to Colorado, visiting with faculty and students at Colorado School of Mines, University of Colorado in Boulder and in Denver. We also spent a day each at Texas A&M and UT Austin to disperse information on our program tracks.

PSM Student News

Enrollment Update:
In addition to the 27 students who enrolled this past fall, we are welcoming four new students this spring semester.

Student Presentations:
Graduating students presented about their internship project in November (Danny Weisman pictured).

Graduating This Fall:
Martin Gibson and Danny Weisman who attended our Subsurface Geoscience track (both are employed by ExxonMobil), and Robin Soares, the first graduate of the Bioscience Research and Health Policy track.

Congratulations to all! We look forward to having you all join the PSM Graduation Celebration and the official 100th Rice Commencement in May 2013!

National Professional Science Master’s Association 2012 Update

The NPSMA held their Annual National Conference in Denver, Colorado on November 7-9th this year with a focus on “Enhancing Global Workforce Competitiveness through PSMs”.

A variety of speakers from local and national organizations gave insights on topics such as international educational opportunities, challenges of recruiting international students, preparing a diversified student body to be successful in global business environments, and others. In addition, PSM program development topics were addressed in Funding for PSM Programs, Securing of Internships, PSM Affiliation Process, Best Practices for Program Development, Creation of NPSMA Alumni Chapters, Teaching Ethics, etc.

The conference was well attended and offered many opportunities to network with colleagues, faculty, and industry representatives. There are now nearly 300 tracks at 127 universities inside and outside of the U.S.
PSM Program News

PSM Cross-Cultural Workshop

With an increasing enrollment of international professional master’s students, the PSM Office developed a workshop especially focused on the international “professional” students’ needs when entering the Western Corporate Culture. The workshop aimed at getting the students ready to network, to meet corporate representatives, to attend career fairs and to prepare for internship interviews. The workshop covered topics such as:

- USA Culture and Traits
- Social Interactions and Networking
- Moving from Networking to Interviewing
- Interviewing Skills and Mock Interview with practice sessions

In addition, we prepared a package with “western culture” information which was sent to incoming students in June, to raise their awareness and to provide English language materials to prepare them better when writing their resumes, practicing their English speaking and writing skills, etc. The goal was to get international students thinking early on about their career goals so upon arrival at Rice they would be prepared better to hit “the ground running” and compete with domestic graduate students more readily.

E-Learning Pilot Project

Within the Professional Master’s program, we recognize the need to provide video assets to our students to make lectures more easily available to them when they have to miss class due to business travel or other commitments. Therefore, we have joined forces with the School of Engineering to move forward with this effort and plan to have a few courses this coming spring and fall recorded with the help of an on-line specialist familiar with the software, camera/microphone set-up, etc., ensuring a good quality recording.

The first courses to be recorded will be ESCI 444 Seismic Data Processing, offered by Dr. Steve Danbom, and NSCI 511 Science Policy and Ethics, by Dr. Kirstin Matthews. In the fall we will move forward with recording courses offered in the School of Engineering.

Update on New Track Development

Space Studies

Information on our new track in “Space Studies” has been distributed over the last six months with the goal to get the word out to as many people as possible. This 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. We have received a good number of inquiries and are hoping to enroll a few qualified students in Fall 2013.

Energy

Faculty from the School of Natural Sciences, the School of Engineering and the Jones School for Business have been working hand-in-hand to develop a suitable curriculum for a graduate degree focusing on energy. In addition, several meetings with industry representatives have taken place over the last two years to get a better feeling for what type of course work is needed to train people at the intersection of an energy industry fueled by carbon and non-carbon resources.

Progress has been made on the curriculum with focus areas in:

- Carbon-based energy
- Renewable energy
- Energy harvesting/storage and distribution
- Management and policy

Several new courses will be developed to round out and complement the curriculum of existing courses. In the development stages are an Energy Overview course and an Energy Seminar. Two more courses are in the works, one focusing on usage of nanotechnology in tackling the energy challenges of the future, and the other possible course could give an overview of energy harvesting, conversion, storage and distribution.

Course Updates

New Courses are on the Books:

- BRHP  SOSC 430 - Shaping Health Policy by Lincy Lal
- EADM  CEVE 420/520 - Environmental Remediation and Restoration by Phil de Blanc
- SG  ESCI 426 - Interpretation of Regional 2D Seismic Data
- ESCI 436 - Well Logging and Petrophysics
- ESCI 544 - Hydrocarbon Exploration (for Imperial Barrel Contest)
STUDENT CLUB NEWS

Under the leadership of PSM Club President Kristen Frederick and new Vice President John Trenchard, the club stayed busy this fall. Students joined an intramural softball team, held regular PSM family dinners, and organized another PSM Thanksgiving meal. EADM Student Megan Weintraut continued to perform in several dance shows attended by her colleagues. At our semester-end social we continued our tradition of a “Secret Santa Present Exchange” which turned out to be a lot of fun for all participants.

And we’ll have fun fun fun!
ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni Updates

Two Student/Alumni Socials took place this fall with great attendance from our local alumni who are a wonderful resource for our students. Our alumni not only represent a great information source on courses, professors, the program and more, but also are a link to their companies and provide great advice on job hunting, interviewing, etc.

Liang Ge (SG) is now a Depth Imaging Project Leader for Schlumberger–WesternGeco. His daughter Alexa (pictured) is 1 year old.

William Kittler (NP) is still in New Zealand and was promoted to MRI Applications Scientist at Victoria University of Wellington.

Scott Horton (NP) was promoted as a Research Physicist at Nanoridge.

Ting Hong (SG) accepted a new position with Paradigm.

John McDougal (EADM) was promoted to Project Development Manager with Element Markets.

Jeff Rudnik (EADM) tied the knot with Lia in summer 2012 in New Mexico (pictured right center).

Jo Zhou (NP) accepted employment with Baker Hughes after graduation. Jo and her husband, Cen-bi Liu (pictured at right), celebrated their wedding with family in China this past summer. Congratulations!

Leebron said Rice underwent dramatic growth between 1960 and 2012. The faculty increased from 160 to 526; staff increased from 150 (in 1965) to nearly 2,500; the undergraduate student population grew from 1,619 to 3,810; and graduate students now number 2,543, versus 320 in 1960.

The market value of Rice’s endowment has increased from $102 million to $4.4 billion, and tuition that was free in 1960 is now $36,610 (but still the lowest in Rice’s peer group of private universities). The physical plant has undergone dramatic changes as well, from 32 buildings to 84, and the academic enterprise expanded as the number of schools went from four to eight. Rice’s federal research grants have grown from $1.1 million in fiscal year 1962 to $107.3 million in fiscal year 2012. The last decade of Rice’s first century has also been a period of substantial growth and change. For example, operating expenses have increased from $287.8 million to $547.5 million.

“We have become a major research university with a very special dedication to teaching and to undergraduate education,” Leebron said. “Over the last 10 years, we’ve become a much larger, more complicated enterprise.” Rice has also become “one of the most diverse elite private universities in the country,” Leebron said, noting that the undergraduate student body no longer has a majority ethnicity. International students account for 11 percent of the student body, versus 3 percent in 2002. The number of Pell grant recipients in this year’s freshman class is 19 percent, compared with 11 percent of the entire student body in 2002. And at the same time, Rice has grown more selective as applications grew from about 7,000 in 2002 to more than 15,000 in 2012.

A Princeton Review survey of students ranked Rice as having the happiest students in the country, and Rice’s No. 3 ranking among national universities in the Alumni Factor survey published this year indicates that Rice’s alumni also consider their education to be “an incredibly valuable experience,” Leebron said. He noted that Rice’s No. 8 ranking by the Houston Business Journal as one of the best places to work in Houston also indicates the satisfaction of the university’s employees.

The centennial provided an opportunity for Rice to celebrate its growth and accomplishments, and Leebron thanked everyone who contributed to making what some alumni described as “the experience of a lifetime.”

Looking ahead to the next five to 10 years, Leebron said, “Online education is going to become an important part of who we are, I believe. But it’s also going to be very important that we use that to enhance our strengths in the things that are important for our students. That means focusing on the quality of what goes on in our classrooms and on the interactions between professors and students and also staff and students.” Among other challenges for the next decade are enhancing research capabilities; fostering more collaboration with the Texas Medical Center, museums and industry; building deeper international partnerships; and investing in infrastructure and maintenance.
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: