NATIONAL PSM PROGRAM NEWS

NPSMA Board Meeting and Workshop in Nashville, TN

The Board of the NPSMA had a day-long meeting followed by a quarterly workshop which was attended by forty attendees, consisting of program directors, administrators, alumni, and students gathered to make connections and share best practices. Representatives from nine colleges and universities that are in the planning stages of their PSM degree programs participated to learn from the experiences and ask questions of the other attendees.

Presentations included status reports on the NPSMA's two ongoing research projects and the pending National Science Foundation PSM grant solicitation. Panel discussions focused on start-up cost and program expense models for PSM programs, best practices for PSM website development and student recruitment, as well as building and maintaining relationships with local employers. The final panel was an exciting discussion with four Middle TN State University graduates and students who shared their experiences.

Rice University joined the National Professional Science Master’s Association as an institutional member this June. This will allow the university to have great impact on the development of the PSM nationwide, and it allows all our alumni a free membership at the same time. If you have not joined the NPSMA yet, please register at www.npsma.org.

GOVERNMENT NEWS

Funding for the PSM has been included in the final conference stimulus bill also known as The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The final bill passed both houses of Congress and includes $15 million for the PSM program at the National Science Foundation. Guidelines will be issued by mid of August.

CORPORATE NEWS

RICE's Professional Science Master's Board Meeting and Corporate Reception 2009

Our 6th annual event exceeded our expectations. Members of a variety of corporations gathered to meet faculty and students, to network with industry colleagues and to learn about the Professional Science Master’s at Rice University in February 2009. The following day we held our Annual Board Meeting with a majority of our affiliates in attendance both at the reception and at the annual meeting. Students and faculty presented to the Board members and vital
issues were discussed, such as impact of recession on their companies and their hiring; attitude of corporations towards hiring professional master’s students; and ways we can we help to disburse more information on our program and our students to all levels within their companies, etc.

Corporate Luncheons
To strengthen our ties with corporations in Houston and familiarize them with our program and our students, we hosted corporate luncheons throughout the year:

Resolve GeoSciences: Students, faculty, and staff met with Don Robinson, Randal Robinson, and Mark Miyaoka to learn about their company’s activities. Resolve GeoSciences helps exploration and development geoscientists use the full spectrum of information readily available in their existing seismic data.

Resource Environmental Solutions (RES): Owner Eliott Bouillon and his CFO Peter Couhi met with students to evaluate possible internship opportunities. RES balances responsible stewardship of America’s ecosystems with generating attractive returns for their partners by investing human and financial capital in the restoration and preservation of environmentally sensitive lands to facilitate sustainable economic growth.

Chevron: Dr. Roland Borey with Chevron’s Environmental Department joined us for lunch to meet with the students and discuss their studies and career plans.

ESCI 420 Lecturers’ Lunch: Dr. Steve Danbom, Rice Adjunct Professor, and the Earth Science department hosted a luncheon to thank the lecturers of the Modern Exploration Technology course. Each lecturer comes to campus to teach a segment of this highly popular course: Dr. Bob Wegner, Exxon Mobil, talks about Seismic Detection of Hydrocarbons; Dr. John Sumner addresses Seismic Modeling; Dr. Ed Biegert, Shell, Non-seismic Geophysical Exploration; Dr. Douglas Rodenberger, Shell, Pre-Stack Depth Imaging for Sub-Salt Exploration; Dr. Mike Howard, BHP Billiton, Rich Azimuth Seismology, Dr. Peter Eick, Conoco Phillips, 3-D Seismic Acquisition, Dr. Robert Corbin, VSP, Post-Stack inversion, Synthetic Trace Generation, and Payson Todd, Conoco Phillips, addresses current topics in Geophysical Research.

Program Publicity
PSM program staff and faculty participated in a variety of events geared to spread the word about the PSM program to corporate representatives and prospective students:
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- **Rice Alliance** hosted the February 09 **Nanotech Forum**. PSM program volunteers distributed PSM brochures, and introduced our students to the participating nanotech companies.

- **Rice Spring Career Fair**: Visited with related corporations and introduced PSM program and students to company representatives in our search for internship/job opportunities.

**Participation at the NSTI Nanotechnology Conference & Expo 2009 at the George Brown Convention Center in May:**
The NSTI Nanotech 2009 is the world’s largest and most anticipated annual nanotechnology conference and expo. Now in its 12th year, over 4,000 attendees and 250 exhibitors participated. Rice had a large booth representing a variety of centers and institutes at Rice involved in Nanotechnology. Students from the Nanoscale Physics track manned the booth and took time to visit with a variety of nanotechnology companies from the U.S. and Europe.

- **Houston Partnership**: Meeting with association representatives to explore opportunities for the PSM Program Director to attend conferences, committees, etc to meet corporate representatives and spread the word about the PSM Program at Rice.

- **Spring Marketing Campaign**: This spring’s marketing focused on ads in student papers, such as UT, Trinity, Baylor, TAMU, Texas Tech, in addition to magazine advertisement in print and on the web with Gradsource.com, Google Ads, gradschools.com, E-Environmental Magazine, jobPostings, AIP, SACNAS and inChemistry.

**PSM STUDENT NEWS**

**GRADUATION MAY 2009**

**Congratulations** to our five graduates receiving their Master of Science diploma at RICE’s 96th Commencement!

_Damir Aidarkhanov, NP; Nada Ahmed, EADM; Brian Cornette, SG; Hemtej Gullapalli, NP; and Wilfred Kittler, NP (not pictured)_

**PSM Student Club**: PSM Students are in the process of establishing a PSM Student Club at Rice University. The mission of the club will be to bring students from the three tracks together on a regular basis to attend events in Houston, visit museums and theaters, organize cook-outs and parties. This will help to create synergy and unity among students from the three interdisciplinary tracks.

**PSM Students in internships:**
All our students are busy working as interns with a variety of companies and academic departments:

The Program Director, Dagmar Beck, has been visiting with interns and their internship providers to establish an on-going dialogue between the university and the corporation, and to inform the corporation about the PSM program and the internship requirements. So far, luncheons were held with Nobel Energy, Teledrill, Inc., Nanoridge, and Chevron.

Lunch with Teledrill’s president Dave Kusko and CTO Dr. Wei
Ting Hong at Teledrill
Bret Halbe at work at Nanoridge

STUDENT RECRUITMENT

Rice PSM Preview Days 2009

Eleven prospective students attended our Preview Days in March to learn more about Rice, the PSM program, and Houston. Students had the opportunity to meet faculty, mingle with current students and have dinner with program alumni. Houston’s Theater district offered a great medley of performances at the Wortham Theater and students felt they had a very thorough and helpful introduction to Rice, inside and outside the hedges!

Incoming Fall 09 Students:

Eight students who attended the Preview Day have enrolled in spring, in addition to six more students who could not participate due to travel distance or other commitments.

We are welcoming to our EADM track:
Chris Campbell, Brian Crimmins, Shilpi Desai, Reshmy Mohanan, and Esther Rios.
New SG students will be: Ryan Jarvis, Shibu Mathukutty, Hyungseon Park, Travis Stolldorf, Julian Talley, Wei Zhang
The NP track welcomes: Mengqi Huang, Ainur Koshkinbayeva, and Ramnik Singh

ALUMNI NEWS

Danny Reed, SG 2007: Shell has regrouped its recruitment team for Rice, and we are happy to report that one of the two new Shell recruiters will be Danny Reed, who graduated out of the PSM in Subsurface Geoscience in Fall 07. He will handle relationships with the Earth Sciences department. Jeremy Pearce, a Rice PhD Physicist, will supervise actual interviews with the students. They both will be able to give an excellent perspective to students wanting to understand Shell, particularly in their early career years, and they will also be able to communicate the skills and abilities of the enrolled Rice students to Shell.
Hemtej Gullapalli, NP, S09: Hemtej was accepted into a PhD program at Rice under Dr. Ajayan of the Mechanical Engineering and Material science department. Congratulations!

Sylvia Cen, SG, S06: Sylvia was transferred from Schlumberger's office in Brian, TX to the WesternGeco/ Schlumberger office on Richmond in Houston where she is now working in the Seismic Guided Drilling department.

Padraig Moloney, NP, S05: Padraig married his long-time girlfriend Dr. Anne van de Ven at the chapel of Saint Armel in rural Brittany, France this summer. Congratulations and all the best for your future together!

BOARD OF AFFILIATES NEWS

The Professional Master's program hosted a luncheon this spring to welcome Dr. James Stevens from Chevron as a new member of the PSM Board of Affiliates. We appreciate Dr. Stevens interest in Rice and our program and are looking forward to working closely with Chevron in the upcoming months. Thank you to all for a great turn-out! We had Board members, faculty, alumni, and students in attendance.

RICE NEWS

New BioScience Research Collaborative ready for Move-in

Conceptualized and built with collaborative research in mind, the BRC is designed to accommodate eight floors of research labs, a visualization center, classrooms, auditoriums and an entire floor dedicated to biomedical informatics.

Vicki Colvin, the Pitzer-Schlumberger Professor of Chemistry and professor in chemical and biomolecular engineering, and her lab group became the first pioneering researchers to move into Rice's BioScience Research Collaborative (BRC), a place where scientists and educators from Rice University and Texas Medical Center institutions can work together to perform leading research that benefits human medicine and health.

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.