Restructuring of the National Professional Science Master’s Association (NPSMA)

The National Professional Science Master’s Association (NPSMA), the organization of PSM faculty, program directors, industry partners, and alumni is moving into the second phase of a launch that began in 2007. Dr. Donald Langenberg was appointed as the Director of Strategic Planning and External Projects for the association. He brings a wealth of experience and commitment – to science, to higher education, to the professional science master’s degree (PSM), and now to the NPSMA. He has been professor of physics at three major universities and Chancellor of the University of Illinois at Chicago and University System of Maryland. During this period he was President of NASH (the National Association of System Heads) for six years. From 1980-1982, Langenberg was Deputy Director of the National Science Foundation. Since his retirement from the University of Maryland System in 2004, he has contributed significantly to the growth and development of the PSM. As former chair of the CGS-PSM advisory board and mentor to the new National PSM Association, Langenberg stands at the intersection of graduate education and innovative science- and math-based programs.

"We are fortunate to have someone of his caliber helping guide the association through the next phase of its development as it seeks to become a strong, sustainable organization," said Dr. Elizabeth Friedman, the current president of the NPSMA and PSM Program Manager at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

The 2nd National NPSMA Conference will take place on Nov. 17 – 19, 2010 at GeorgiaTech in Atlanta, GA. If you, your company or organization is interested in becoming an active part of the national association, please become a member at [www.npsm.org](http://www.npsm.org) and/or plan to participate in this year's conference.

GOVERNMENT NEWS

The NSF announced the awardees of science master’s program funding at the end of May, 2010. Over 270 proposals were received, only 21 received awards, and unfortunately, our proposal was not considered, even though it received very positive feedback. But we will not give up, and continue our efforts to secure government and/or corporate funding for our students.

If your company is looking to invest in education, please consider our PSM Program!

CORPORATE NEWS

Spring brought the 7th Annual Professional Science Master’s Reception and Board Meeting (already reported in the last newsletter)

Lunch with Marathon Oil Corporation gave an insight into Marathon's efforts in emerging technologies, such as alternative and renewable fuels, energy efficiency and carbon intensity, and carbon capture and sequestration. Emerging Technology provides a forward look at technology development to adapt Marathon's business model to address challenges facing the energy industry today. Wil Kirchner and Sarah Clark informed students and faculty during this lunch at Cohen House about their department’s activities and workforce needs.

April 2010 Student Project Presentations and Semester-end Reception

NP Presenters: Viswa Nellore, Bret Halbe, Dana Aki Bekova, Sona Joseph

SG Presenters: Chris Ochterbeck, Kyung Nam Ko, George Bunge
Due to eleven students presenting this spring, we had to spread their internship presentations over four Wednesdays in April and May! Many internship providers were able to attend the semester-end reception after the last presentations were wrapped up. We thank corporate representatives from Nanoridge, Chevron, Schlumberger, Baker Hughes, ExxonMobil, and Halliburton for their time and interest, and also wish to thank all research students who came to support students reporting about their academic internship experience.

**Spring Seminar Speakers:**
Thank you to all our speakers this spring!
Russ Krauss, RES Mitigation; Dick Williams, Shell Wind Energy; Tauseef Salma, Baker Hughes; June Ferrill, Rice/PSM Communication; William Arnold, Jones School of Business; Kyle Kissell, Nanoridge; Jim Lemaux, BP; Ken Smith, Occor; Kari Sutton, PBS&J, and Roland Borey, Chevron.

**BOARD OF AFFILIATES NEWS**
We are delighted to welcome Martha Barnes, Adv. Senior Geologist at Marathon Oil and Ed Biegert, Manager and Physicist at Shell as new members of our Board of Affiliates.

Both showed their interest and support of the PSM Program and students by attending our recent student presentations (see photos above), and we are counting on their involvement with our students, their industry feedback, and their continued participation in our events in the future.

**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:

- **Nanoscale Physics Program/Student in APS News:** The American Physics Society ran an article on their back page entitled, “Training Physics Professionals for the Nonacademic Workforce,” which quoted Wilfred Kittler, graduate of the Nanoscale Physics program at Rice.

- **Rice Alliance** hosted the February 2010 Nanotech Forum. PSM program volunteers distributed PSM brochures, and students took advantage of the networking opportunities offered at the company showcase directly following the forum.

- **3rd Annual ESCG College Day at Jacobs Technology:** PSM Program Director Dagmar Beck collaborated with Dr. Ratnar Sakar from the School of Engineering, in representing Rice and individual programs like the PSM Program, Professional Master's in Engineering and the MBA programs at this career fair offered to NASA employees and their contractors.

- **2010 Offshore Technology Conference:** Rice University/PSM participated with a one-day exhibition booth on the second day of the conference, offering information on Rice and a variety of programs.
2010 Rice Alliance Life Sciences Technology Venture Forum: The PSM distributed brochures and fostered networking opportunities with corporate representatives at this very successful and well-attended event in June 2010.

PSM PROGRAM NEWS

PSM Graduation and Celebration 2010:

Congratulations to our PSM students participating at Rice’s 97th Commencement! This spring we experienced the highest number of graduates walking at our commencement:

Fall Graduates: Ting Hong, Joe Mills, Gisselle Comejo (SG) and Carol Liu (EADM)
Spring Graduates: Jennifer Andjelich, Scott Rauschuber, Jeff Rudnik and Alex Wagner (EADM); Vishwa Nellore, Dana Akilbekova, Bret Halbe, Sona Joseph (NP); Chris Ochterbeck, KyungNam Ko, George Bunge (SG)

New Faculty:

PSM Communication Training: After the retirement of Dr. Ferrill, the PSM Program was able to secure the support and assistance of Dr. Mary Purugannan and Dr. Liz Eich, who both have many years of experience in communication training as part of the Cain Project in Engineering and Professional Communication at Rice, in addition to their science backgrounds. Mary and Liz currently teach NSCI 121: Writing Professionally in Natural Sciences and collaborate with faculty in Natural Sciences to incorporate communication instruction and assignments into the curriculum.

Science & Technology Policy and Ethics: After the retirement of George Jones, Dr. Kristin Matthews and Dr. Chris Bronk, both Baker Institute Fellows, will be taking this course over. Their experiences and background in science and policy making will ensure that this course will continue to be interesting and challenging.

Welcome to the PSM Program, we are excited to have you on board and look forward to working with you!

MORE PSM PROGRAM UPDATES

Environmental Analysis and Decision Making Curriculum
To streamline the existing EADM track, faculty worked through the spring to provide a more focused curriculum that will help students with their choices of course work. A new overview course is being developed and will be available in Spring 2011. Focus areas have now been combined and reduced to Environmental Sustainability, Management and Policy, and Quantitative Decision-Making.

Subsurface Geoscience
The SG faculty has experimented with the Panopto automated classroom system software, recording courses so that students can review the class at their own convenience online. We hope to expand this pilot project to more courses related to our track.

Nanoscale Physics
An equipment training course will come back on line for NP students in Spring 2011. The MSCI 580 course will teach students how to use essential equipment used in nanotechnology companies and research projects. This training will enhance the students’ technical skills and improve their potential for employment.
Development of new tracks
We are working with various faculty on initiatives for new tracks related to Science and Technology Policy, Energy Studies and Space Science. We will provide updates as new program tracks make their way through development and Rice University approval.

PSM Student Club
The PSM Student Club is seeking new leadership. Alex Wagner graduated this May and accepted employment with Huco Consulting and will therefore no longer be able to participate. Shibu Mathukutty, the Club’s Vice President, will be on an internship this summer and fall and will need someone to help with organizing events for the PSM students. The PSM Club seeks to foster a community for all students from the three tracks, and to organize educational and fun events for all to attend. If you are interested in helping with this effort, please contact Dagmar Beck.

STUDENT RECRUITMENT

Rice PSM Preview Days 2010
Fifteen 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, tour the campus and some labs, mingle with current students and have dinner with program alumni. The performance at the Alley Theater was enjoyed by all, and visiting students felt they had a very thorough and helpful introduction to Rice, inside and outside the hedges!

PSM STUDENT NEWS

Summer 2010 Internships:

EADM students: Reshmy Mohanan and Shilpi Desai with GSI Environmental, Chris Campbell with the City of Houston, Ester Rios with Chevron Env. Department, Brandon Mooney with the Committee on Science and Technology, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
SG students: Julian Talley with Chevron, Mengqi Huang and Liang Ge with Schlumberger.
NP students: Ramnik Singh with NGimat, Sona Joseph with UT NanoMedicine and BioMedical Engineering, and Ainur Koshkinbayeva with Texas State University in San Marcos.

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

Incoming Fall 2010 Students:

We are very proud to welcome eight new Subsurface Geoscience students, four new Nanoscale Physics students and six new Environmental Analysis and Decision Making students into our program for Fall 2010!

Important Events for Incoming Students:

Please mark your calendars to attend the:
- PSM Communication Assessment Workshop scheduled for August 13th from 9 am to 3 pm.
- Orientation Week starting on August 16th.
- PSM Orientation on August 19th from 12 pm to 5 pm
- Classes start on August 23rd!
ALUMNI NEWS

EADM Alumni: Alex Wagner accepted employment with HUCO Consulting in Houston, Texas.

Nanoscale Alumni: Bret Halbe moved to Milpitas, California to work for KLA Tencor, a leader in the semiconductor equipment industry. Vishwa Nellore decided to pursue a PhD and was accepted at Duke University.

Subsurface Geoscience Alumni: Adriana Valerio is now working for Terraspark Geosciences in Houston, Texas as a Senior Support Specialist. Adriana explains that BHP Billiton, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Shell, Stone Energy, and Paradigm Geophysical are part of the TerraSpark Interpretation Visualization Consortium. This Consortium is hosted by TerraSpark Geosciences and has been running for 5 years. It focuses on technology breakthroughs in 3D seismic structural and stratigraphic interpretation by enabling more efficient, accurate, and detailed interpretations of geologic structure and depositional systems. The outcome of the consortium is a recently released commercial product called Insight Earth which is designed to run with all major 3D interpretation systems in the industry, including products from Paradigm Geophysical, Halliburton/Landmark, Schlumberger and SMT. For more info on this company, please visit their website www.terraspark.com

In her position as Senior Support Specialist she works as a consultant, supporting new clients and pre-sales, assisting their training department and further promoting the expansion of the company in Europe and Australia.

Weddings:

Alex Wagner celebrated his marriage to Nathalie Mulhern in June 2010! Congratulations and all the best for a happy and long lasting marriage!

RICE NEWS

O’Connor House was recently renamed in honor of alumnus Peter Huff ’59 and his wife, Nancy Larson Huff. The Huffs’ generous gift to the university’s Centennial Campaign will fund renovations of the house, including a two-story enlargement on the southeast corner that will create more space for alumni gatherings on campus. The renovations will maintain the scale and character of the original structure, while increasing the functionality of the house. The house has been the residence of five Rice Presidents and their families since 1948 and now houses the Office of Alumni Affairs and the Center for Student Professional Development.

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.