

Great Minds Alumni Panel on Engineering

October 19, 2012

IMSA Main Gym ~ 2:45 p.m.– 3:30 p.m.



Mark Wrzyszczyński is a subsea project manager with Shell Projects and Technology in Houston, Texas. He earned a Masters in Business Administration from Tulane University and a Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy. After graduating from the Naval Academy, Mark served in the Navy as a submarine officer and qualified as Engineering Officer of a nuclear powered ship. He joined Shell in 2001 and has worked a variety of positions at Shell, building infrastructure and Oil and Gas developments in the western hemisphere. He is the inventor of record for a patented subsea structural clamp, and coordinated Shell's recovery in the Gulf of Mexico after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He has served as chair of the Offshore Operators Committee, Pipeline Subcommittee and is currently working with the Subsea Tieback Foundation, Educate Committee to encourage careers in the subsea energy industry.



Alex Surasky-Ysasi is a design engineer who has already worked in a wide variety of fields, from American steel plants to rural Tanzanian agriculture. This includes work for Anza Technologies designing a low-cost pushcart for farmers in Africa, as well as the development of local capacity to produce small-scale electric turbines in Guatemala with the Appropriate Infrastructure Development Group (AIDG). She is passionate about human-centered design and the ways in which technologies – old and new – have the capacity to transform lives in the developing world. Alex's design philosophy is that tinkering, observing, hands-on prototyping, and listening are key components of the process. She received her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Brown University in 2007.



Stephen Paige is a petroleum engineer with Shell Oil Company in Kiev, Ukraine. He earned a Bachelor's in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics and Master's in Aerospace Engineering, both from the University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign. After graduating in 2005, Stephen started working for a major international oilfield services company as a field engineer in western Siberia, eventually working his way across Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Georgia, and Hungary. After working throughout Eastern Europe for four years, he joined Shell as a petroleum engineer in the Netherlands. He was responsible for the development of a number of technological innovations for producing late-life natural gas wells. More recently, he moved with Shell to Ukraine and joined a major project for both Shell and the country of Ukraine, who are on their own drive towards energy independence.