

NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTER'S ASSOCIATION
100 INSTITUTE ROAD, WORCESTER, MA 01609
(508) 831-4996 * WWW.NPSMA.ORG

Preliminary Results of ongoing Research Projects Provided at Workshop

The NPSMA is conducting the first **PSM Alumni Employment Survey** which asks graduates about their degree, their employer (industry & size), and their employment status (including salary). This confidential questionnaire contains only twelve questions and takes each respondent no more than five minutes to complete. Through the first three weeks we have had nearly 200 responses (about a 9% response rate). Please direct your PSM alumni to www.npsma.org where they will find the survey link on the home page.

The NPSMA is also compiling a **Roster of Employers** that partner with PSM degree programs. We are interested in identifying employers that serve on local advisory boards, host interns, and hire PSM graduates. With only 20 of 140 PSM degree programs responding to-date, we have been able to identify nearly 1300 employers that are involved with PSM degree programs. Importantly, we have been able to highlight those that are involved with multiple programs. Please submit your responses to slemire@npsma.org.

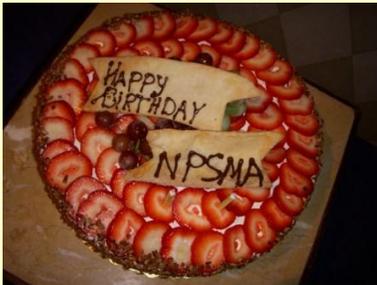
The deadline for each project is August 25. The final results of each project will be presented on Friday, September 11, in Springfield, MA.

NPSMA Nashville Workshop a Big Success

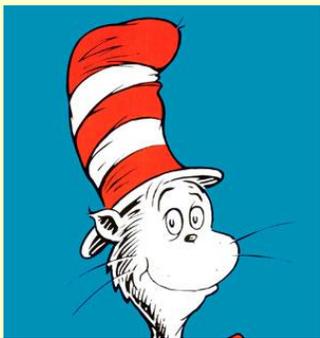
The NPSMA hosted a Networking Social and Quarterly Workshop on June 18-19 in Nashville, TN. Forty attendees, consisting of program directors, administrators, alumni, and students gathered to make connections and share best practices. Representatives from nine colleges and universities that are in the 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 (see above) 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.



*The NPSMA
Celebrated its 2nd Birthday
at the Nashville Workshop*



SAVE THE DATE!
NPSMA Quarterly Workshop
September 9-10, 2009
Springfield, MA

NPSMA's Peer Review Committee Releases Working Draft of Core PSM Components

Knowledge Core

A Professional Science Master's program is centered on an area of core scientific/mathematical knowledge—core knowledge amplified through applications appropriate to the professional workplace.

- I. **Professional communications skills** - Effective scientific writing and oral presentation capability in a professional environment, whether scientific or non-scientific.
 - a. Ability to speak extemporaneously on a completed applied project
 - b. Ability to write a brief technical report
 - c. Ability to design and give effective presentations

- II. **Core Analytical knowledge** - quantitative skills to analyze and assess information.
 - a. Knowledge of how logical arguments are developed, organized and presented
 - b. Ability to understand and apply statistical methods OR the ability to understand and apply decision-making models

- III. **Core knowledge of business management** - appropriate to a general business environment, such as
 - a. Ethics—understanding what behavior and actions are appropriate, both as an individual and as a member of a team
 - b. Basic accounting and finance—understanding how money is handled in businesses
 - c. Project management—understanding general systems management, organizational structures, and the role and composition of project teams

- IV. **Integration of PSM knowledge and skills** - to make the PSM graduate a valued employee
 - a. Successful completion of an internship with a company or organization, OR successful completion of an employer-related project
 - b. Team building—understanding how to work as a team member and a team leader
 - c. A generalized problem-solving ability that leverages core PSM knowledge and skills

- V. **Program Assessment** - to improve the program, and to improve how the program articulates with companies and organizations that hire PSM graduates
 - a. PSM External Committee - stakeholders outside the program provide a "reality check" at least once a year
 - b. Exit interviews of PSM graduates
 - c. Assessment from supervisors at companies that employ PSM students
 - d. Feedback from PSM graduates at the close of their first year of employment



*Cliff Chancey,
University of
Northern Iowa,
Chairs the NPSMA
Peer Review Committee*

This second draft includes the feedback from the Nashville Workshop participants. The Peer Review Committee will continue to refine the Core PSM Components as it integrates with the NPSMA Best Practices Committee.

The Peer Review Committee members are Cliff Chancey (UNI), Liz Friedman (IIT), Jung Choi (GA Tech), Jean Schaaque (UNT), Cynthia Bainton (NEU), and Stephen Lemire (NPSMA).

“Common PSM graduates’ job titles include Program, Project, or Product Manager. They also include Research Associate or Assistant, and Regulatory Affairs Specialist.”

-Stephen Lemire, NPSMA, on the Alumni Employment Survey preliminary results

Marian Cothran (TAMU), Dagmar Beck (Rice) and Linda Lacey (NMSU) at the PSM Networking Social.



NPSMA at the AIBS Annual Conference

The NPSMA represented PSM degree programs at this year’s American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) Annual Conference in Arlington, VA on May 18-19. This year’s theme was “Sustainable Agriculture: Greening the Global Food Supply” and gave us an opportunity to discuss how PSM programs in this growing and diverse field could help meet future workforce demands. Our session was entitled “Professional Science Masters: Connecting to the Business Side of Science” and was chaired by Dr. Ursula Bechert, Director of Off-Campus Programs for the College of Science at Oregon State University and current President of the NPSMA.

Panelists included:

- Carol Lynch, Council of Graduate Schools— provided an update on national PSM initiatives
- Myles Boylan and Carol Stoel, National Science—discussed details about the new NSF funding opportunity for PSM programs
- May Berenbaum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign— shared information about their new PSM programs in Agricultural Production, Bioenergy, and Food Science & Human Nutrition
- Patrick Lukulay, United States Pharmacopeia, Drug Quality and Information Program— talked about industry perspectives regarding PSM programs and graduates
- Terry Bousquet, National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Inc.— shared her experiences as a PSM alumna and career impacts

The session reached a broad audience through a live-streaming webcast that the Institute organized, and presentations are now available [online](#) (scroll to the bottom of the page).

http://live.blueskybroadcast.com/bsb/client/CL_DEFAULT.asp?Client=26&PCAT=1211&CAT=1211.

NPSMA to partner with IIT Institute of Design; CGS 2009 PSM Biennial Announced

The NPSMA is pleased to be working with the Institute of Design (<http://www.id.iit.edu/>) at the Illinois Institute of Technology this summer. The NPSMA has been selected as a case study to have our membership services and sustainability examined through “humanizing technology and improving the process of innovation.” The graduate students at IIT working on the project will recommend the most efficient ways for the NPSMA to provide new services to its members.

The Council of Graduate Schools will be hosting the 2009 PSM Biennial on November 4-6 in Washington, DC. Interested parties may submit abstracts for three contributed paper sessions which will address: recruitment of students and program marketing; financial models for program sustainability including student financing; and ethics and the PSM. For more information, please contact Nancy Vincent at CGS at nvincent@cgs.nche.edu or 202-461-3878.

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

(The NPSMA is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization; Tax ID # 20-8766099)

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE CATEGORY

_____ Business, Industry, Nonprofit, Government Employer		\$4,000
_____ Academic Institution		\$2,000
(1 member per PSM program)		
(PSM alumni that enroll in Alumni Network - 1 year FREE)		
_____ Academic - Employer Partnership		\$5,000
_____ Academic System	(3 to 5 campuses)	\$5,000
	(each additional campus)	\$1,000
_____ Individual		\$ 50
_____ PSM Alumnus		\$ 50
_____ PSM Student	1 st year - FREE; 2 nd year	\$ 25

PLEASE PRINT, COMPLETE FORM AND INCLUDE WITH PAYMENT TO THE **NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTER'S ASSOCIATION**. PAYMENT IS DUE UPON RECEIPT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

QUESTIONS: STEPHEN LEMIRE, (508) 831-4996, SLEMIRE@NPSMA.ORG

PLEASE PROVIDE CONTACT INFORMATION BELOW

Name of Business or Academic Institution _____

Address _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Individual Information (Academic Institutions may provide one contact person/PSM program)

Name _____

Title _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Name _____

Title _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____