

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

UMass System-wide PSM degree program celebrates first anniversary

On January 21, the University of Massachusetts system PSM program conducted its second annual conference to highlight its initial success, update its coming plans, and generate additional support from its constituents. More than eighty senior administrators and faculty from the five UMass campuses, senior regional employer representatives, and national PSM advocates participated in the event.

The UMass PSM initiative received a start up grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Additional support has been contributed by UMass Online and the UMass campuses. The National Professional Science Master's Association has been closely involved with the development of the UMass PSM system. In particular, NPSMA executive director Stephen Lemire, founding president Bogdan Vernescu, board member Cynthia Bainton, and Sloan Foundation consultant Sheila Tobias were recognized at the conference for their assistance.

The event was kicked off with an emphasis of how the PSM programs are significant for economic development in Massachusetts by UMass Lowell provost Ahmed Abdelal, UMass system president Jack Wilson, and UMass Lowell chancellor Martin Meehan. The national view of the PSM was presented by Lemire, Tobias, and Don Langenberg, chancellor emeritus, university system of Maryland.

UMass Lowell vice provost for graduate education Don Pierson, who has been instrumental in the rapid development of the UMass PSM, and Susan Lawton, PSM planning coordinator outlined the scope of the programs being developed across the campuses. UMass is planning to roll out 15 PSM programs within the next year. They will primarily be in life sciences and environmental sciences.

To create a flexible system for students, with more options than would ordinarily be available on a single campus the professional (plus) courses are offered through UMass Online with the science core course offerings distinctive to each campus. The online capability creates a cost effective, sustainable plan for incorporating management knowledge and skills into the PSM programs.

The career services resource personnel on each campus are collaborating to exchange information and knowledge to enhance the internship opportunities for the PSM students as well as disseminating information regarding internships available through the Mass Life Sciences Internship Challenge Program and other area programs.

If you would like to learn more about UMass PSM program you may contact Susan Lawton at susan_lawton@uml.edu or (978)934-2299.



UMass Lowell Provost
Ahmed Abdelal



UMass Lowell Vice Provost
for Graduate Education
Don Pierson

Annual PSM degree program enrollment and graduate survey deadline nears

“We had a 95% response rate to last year’s survey. Our goal is to reach that level again this year. It’s important to document the growth of the PSM degree by profiling the students and graduates.”

- Stephen Lemire,
NPSMA Executive
Director

Over the past several weeks the NPSMA has been conducting its *Annual PSM Degree Program Enrollment and Graduate Survey* by surveying all PSM degree program directors. The online questionnaire is divided into four sections: 1) program contact information, 2) profile of currently enrolled students, 3) summary of all-time graduates, and 4) program design.

The just-extended deadline to submit program data is Wednesday, February 24. Program directors that have yet to complete the survey may access it at:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/psm_enrollment_grad_survey

The data collected will be shared with PSM degree program directors, PSM degree program advocates (the Council of Graduate Schools, for example), the media, and policymakers. The information will provide an updated count and profile of PSM degree program students and alumni as well as monitor any shifts in PSM degree program management and design.

NPSMA to hold Best Practices Workshop and Career Fair on April 15-16 in Claremont, CA

The NPSMA will be hosting its first event of the year on Thursday, April 15 and Friday, April 16 in Claremont, CA. The Best Practices Workshop (BPW) will be hosted and sponsored by the Keck Graduate Institute for Applied Life Sciences.

The BPW will begin with a PSM networking social on Thursday. It will be held in conjunction with the first NPSMA PSM recruiting fair where participants will be encouraged to display their program’s materials and discuss their program with prospective students.

On Friday, the BPW will include day-long interactive panels including discussions on the annual PSM enrollment survey, financing models, employer alliance building, program marketing and student recruitment. Panels with employers, PSM alumni, and students will wrap up the day.

The fee for the BPW will include registration, the networking social and career fair, one night at the Claremont Doubletree, and two meals. Online registration will be available shortly on the NPSMA website. Notification via our listserv will alert you to when registration is available.



NPSMA Best Practices Workshop to be held on Thursday, April 15 and Friday, April 16 in Claremont, CA will be hosted by the Keck Graduate Institute

Recent Developments in the PSM Community

The Grand Valley State University bioinformatics PSM program has produced a YouTube video to promote its program. It's a great way to use another media avenue to get word out about its program. To view the video click on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uttG3oCArAE>.

There is a new initiative being led by Don Langenberg and Sheila Tobias (both pictured at left) and funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. It provides technical support for system-wide PSM initiatives and is specifically targeted for members of the National Association of System Heads. The website www.nash-psm.org provides some useful resource material on the PSM degree, including a handy FAQ section.

Rutgers University has announced its new Master of Business and Science Degree. To read the press release which has been picked up by many media publications go to <http://news.rutgers.edu/medrel/news-releases/2010/01/rutgers-integrates-s-20100112>.

The number of PSM degree programs has increased to 166 which are offered at 88 colleges and universities. The rapid growth is impressive. Congratulations to all! For a listing of all programs, with a link to each program's website click on <http://www.sciencemasters.com/Default.aspx?tabid=58>.

NPSMA board member Bogdan Vernescu of Worcester Polytechnic Institute recently facilitated a focus Group discussion for directors of graduate studies in January at the Joint Mathematics Meetings (JMM) in San Francisco. The JMM is the combined meeting of the American Mathematical Society, Mathematical Association of America, Association for Symbolic Logic, the Association for Women in Mathematics, the National Association for Mathematicians, and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

Thank you to all the PSM program directors that have accepted our invitation to connect with us on our NPSMA LinkedIn page. We foresee that this will develop into another invaluable means of communicating NPSMA activities and requesting feedback. Importantly, it will be a key method for us to work together to reach out to PSM students and graduates when needed.

The NPSMA will soon unveil a new member-driven and more interactive website. The url will remain www.npsma.org. Look for it soon!



Don Langenberg,
Chancellor Emeritus,
University of
Maryland System



Sheila Tobias,
consultant to the
Sloan Foundation

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE CATEGORY

_____ Academic Institution (1 contact per PSM program)	\$2,000
(PSM alumni that enroll in Alumni Connection - 1 year FREE)	
_____ Academic System	\$1,500/campus
_____ Individual	\$ 75
_____ PSM Alum	\$ 75
_____ PSM Student	1 st year - FREE; 2 nd year \$ 50

*Corporate, Nonprofit Organization, and Non-Academic Institution memberships are also available. For more information, please contact the NPSMA office at (508) 831-4996.

PLEASE MAKE PAYMENTS 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 Institution _____

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 _____

Name _____

Title _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____