

NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTER'S ASSOCIATION
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(508) 831-4996 * WWW.NPSMA.ORG

NPSMA Announces New Board Members and Officers for 2010 at Annual Meeting

The National Professional Science Master's Association (NPSMA) Board of Directors held its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 4 in Washington, DC.

During the meeting, the Board announced the four new Directors elected by the general membership to begin serving a three-year term. Those chosen were: Cynthia Bainton of Northeastern University, Daniel Chatham of the Keck Graduate Institute for Applied Life Sciences, John Nishio of California State University, Chico and Joseph Whittaker of Morgan State University. All nominees who sought election were thanked for their willingness to increase their involvement in the NPSMA.

After the meeting, the newly formed Board met to elect its officers for 2010. The executive committee for next year will be President Elizabeth Friedman of the Illinois Institute of Technology, Vice President Dagmar Beck of Rice University, Convener Cynthia Bainton, and Finance Officer Daniel Chatham. Outgoing officers Ursula Bechert (President), Loida Escote-Carlson (Convener), and Kirk Jordan (Finance Officer) were acknowledged for their dedication, leadership, and service.

NPSMA Members Gather for Annual Networking Social in Washington, DC

More than fifty members of the NPSMA met for an evening to get re-acquainted with colleagues and to make new contacts at the Bistro Bis in Washington, DC last month. The NPSMA Board of Directors greeted program directors, graduate education leaders, alumni, and students alike.

Executive Director Stephen Lemire spoke briefly and thanked the Board and the general membership for its support and commitment to both the NPSMA and the PSM degree. He gave a quick overview of the highlights of the past year focusing on the growth of the association and the success of its workshops and data projects.

Lemire then challenged the membership to use the success of 2009 to generate momentum as the NPSMA and PSM degree swing into the new year to face continued growth and new challenges. He also outlined new products and services that the NPSMA is gearing up for in 2010 to help members meet these new challenges.



Newly-elected NPSMA board members
Cynthia Bainton,
Joseph Whittaker, and
Dan Chatham
(Missing: John Nishio)



PSM alum Cheril Lin Abeel and
NPSMA board member Peiru Wu

President Ursula Bechert Reflects on 2009 and the Growth of the PSM Degree and the NPSMA



Outgoing NPSMA
President Ursula
Bechert

This has been a tremendous year of growth for the PSM degree. We have seen significant increases in the numbers of enrolled students and alumni, programs and the universities that offer them, state and system wide development initiatives, and government agencies, like the National Science Foundation, creating new funding programs to support their growth.

The NPSMA has been evolving to keep in step with these changes. We held workshops in Tucson AZ, Nashville TN, and Springfield MA to promote best practices and foster networking among PSM professionals. We completed three new data reports to help the PSM community learn more about PSM alumni employment statistics, PSM degree program enrollment, and current PSM graduate employers. The peer review process simultaneously supports program development efforts and strengthens branding and recognition. The NPSMA served as the voice of the PSM degree through presentations made at several national and regional conferences including BIO, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Institute of Biological Sciences, the PSM Biennial, and others.

We are at an exciting point of time in the growth of our association and the PSM movement. It has been my pleasure to serve as the President of the NPSMA Board this past year. I look forward to seeing what the next year brings.

President-Elect Liz Friedman Outlines the NPSMA's Action Plan for 2010



NPSMA President-Elect
Liz Friedman

As incoming president, I would first like to thank Ursula Bechert, our outgoing president, for the wonderful job she's done in bringing national recognition to our association, and extend a hearty welcome to our new energetic and enthusiastic board members.

I am looking forward to an exciting 2010 for the NPSMA and have great plans in store for the association. My agenda includes greater outreach to business and industry to cultivate membership and support for NPSMA sustainability. I am going to help develop a set of policies and procedures to guide the organization and revise our committee structure to meet our immediate needs. I will be working closely with our executive director and board members to continue to offer best practices guidance to current members and potential program directors. Our outreach efforts include a warm invitation to our Canadian friends to join their North American neighbors in the NPSMA.

I hope you will all help me in achieving these goals. For those whom I am not familiar with, I hope to get the opportunity to personally meet you either at one of our workshops or at the national conference in Atlanta. In the meantime, please feel free to email me (friedman@npsma.org) with any ideas you may have on how we can move forward to create and sustain an active, engaged membership association that values superior Professional Science Master's education and all of its stakeholders.

NPSMA to roll out Annual PSM Degree Program Enrollment and Graduate Study in December

“The Annual Enrollment and Graduate Survey is a vital marker to help us gauge the continued growth of the PSM degree and to identify new trends in program design.”

- Stephen Lemire,
NPSMA Executive
Director

This month, the NPSMA will conduct 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 information will be shared with PSM degree program directors, PSM degree program advocates (Council of Graduate Schools, for example), the media, and policymakers. The data 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.

PSM degree program directors will receive an email from the NPSMA in the coming weeks directing them to a survey portal where they may log on and enter their data. It is not expected that it will take more than 20-30 minutes to complete the survey for the larger programs nor 10-20 minutes for the smaller (or newer) programs.

Last winter, we were able to achieve a 95% response rate! We published a copy of the findings this past spring. A copy of this year's report is available at the following link: http://www.npsma.org/assetlibrary/eg_data_report_final.pdf.

The New NPSMA Alumni Connection: Q&A with Alumni Coordinator Deb Warren-Hite

NPSMA: What has been available to PSM alumni to this point?

Deb: We have been in the process of building a database of the roughly 2500 PSM alumni and asking them about what NPSMA services are most important to them. We currently offer an alumni LinkedIn page and have held socials, webinars, and teleconferences.

NPSMA: What would you like PSM graduates to contribute to or participate in?

Deb: Obviously, we would like them to become members in the NPSMA and to help shape the direction of the association since it is *their* professional association. We'd really like to hear their stories, too. Testimonials are fine, but we'd like more detail about why they chose their career, the type of work they are doing, how the PSM degree has helped them advance, and the type of advice that they'd like to offer to PSM students that are following in their footsteps.

NPSMA: What can we expect from the Alumni Connection in 2010?

Deb: We will significantly increase our outreach efforts to identify our graduates and to track their career paths. For example we will conduct another Alumni/Employment survey, develop an internship and job posting board, and offer professional development, networking, and mentoring opportunities.

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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 _____