

Hello MAPPers!

This is your monthly dose of Alumni News!

We have updates for you on our three class priorities: Communications (external and internal), Continuing Education and Development, and Alumni Community building. Pay particular attention to the deadlines and dates below; grab your planner! We included a recap of the important dates at the end of this email.

Communications (Sulynn and Team)

The Communications team aims to make available facilities that will ensure that MAPP alumni members stay connected to each other and the faculty, keep abreast of PP news and developments, share resources and learning experiences, and have opportunities to promote their areas of expertise. To this end, consultation with Peter Schulman, James, and Debbie Swick highlighted synchronicity. The revamp of the UPenn Positive Psychology website will include showcasing each MAPP Alumni member with the following information:

- A one-paragraph bio (Word doc 50-80 words) and area of expertise/specialty
- A one-paragraph (Word doc 80-100 words) about your Capstone project
- A one-paragraph summary (Word doc 80 -100 words) of each cohort's MAPP 702 service learning project
- Email links to your 702 final paper and Capstone report

Peter Schulman's directive "*We really want just one paragraph for the bio and the summary of the Capstone project. If it is much longer, please send it back to them to revise, as I do not think it will be useful for the website if it is longer than this*".

We hope to have all bios up on the website by the time we officially finish our course in August. So please prepare and send your 50-80 word bio, 80-100 word Capstone summary, and 80-100 word paragraph on your MAPP702 service learning project to sulynn_choong@yahoo.com no later than 15 August 2006.

Also, we need your express permission to place the above materials on the MAPP website, where it can be seen by anyone with Internet access. If you have concerns about this, let us know. In your email, please include this statement "I hereby grant permission for the publication of my MAPP702 final paper, Capstone report, and attached materials" and sign the email with your full name.

In the case of multiple authors, permission from each author to post the MAPP 702 paper and Capstone report on the website is absolutely necessary.

In addition, we are exploring the best means of maintaining open and regular communications among Alumni members without cluttering your mailboxes with Reply-all messages etc. This will be set up by mid August just before our access to eCollege expires.

Reminder: if you wish to download any work or paper from eCollege, do it soon before access is denied.

Continuing Education & Development (Margaret and Team)

As we finish up our Capstones and wonder, "What next?", the Continuing Education & Development Committee is ready with some answers. We've been busy this past month turning your desire for continued education and development into a reality. We have three areas that we are focusing on:

- Mentoring opportunities for the new MAPP class
- Quarterly teleconferences with key researchers in the field of Positive Psychology
- Creating a directory of current PhD programs, related to the field of Positive Psychology

Some of you participated in a conference call with Emma to share your views on a Mentoring Program. She is putting the final touches on the Program as we speak and will have something in place in time for the fall. There will be a call with James and Debbie in the next month or so with anyone who is interested in mentoring – more details to follow.

Some of you also shared your views with Senia, via a survey she distributed, on who you would like to hear from during our quarterly meetings with key researchers, as well as the time of day you preferred for these calls. It looks like sometime between 1:00-4:00 pm Eastern Time is preferred by most of us. Senia is working with James and Debbie to get these meetings scheduled and we hope to offer our first one around September.

Lastly, Diana has begun investigating existing PhD programs and will work with Tom and Nick to create a directory by year-end. The directory will include who is doing what and where, along with other interdisciplinary programs with a Positive Psychology bent.

Thanks go out to all of you who have provided us with your input. If you have any questions, additional feedback, or just want to know how to get more involved, please send any one of us an email (margaret@thegreenberggroup.org, senia@senia.com, emmastudent@thewestcotts.com, diana_stratigakis@yahoo.com) or give us a call. We look forward to delivering you programs that strengthen our community of applied positive psychology.

Community Building (David and Team)

Here are the top updates in our community building efforts. Thank you to James and Debbie for their help on these initiatives.

- MAPP Alumni Reunion at IPPS: 22 of us have already signed up to go to DC in October! We will be organizing a "MAPP '05-'06 meets the class of MAPP '06-'07" on

Friday night of the Summit. Plan to attend; it's going to be fun! Doug, Nick, and Caroline will be helping us.

- Posters at IPPS for MAPP: We are considering hosting a special poster session for MAPPers. We are considering how we might integrate the Posters into the new MAPP Class's schedule in DC and the IPPS. Please email David by August 1 if you would like to create and display your research in a poster during our IPPS weekend. We want to see how many of you would like to take advantage of this opportunity.
- Final Conference Call for MAPP after our Capstones are complete: We will be organizing a conference call to celebrate the completion of our Capstones and our MAPP Journey. Debbie and James will join us! Stay tuned.
- Semi-Annual State of the Union of Positive Psychology with Marty, and an Update on the MAPP Program from James and Debbie: Mark your calendars! We are slated for the first official conference call to take place on Friday, November 10, at 11:00a.m. EST. Stay tuned for details!
- MAPP Scholarship Fund: We are discussing with the university how we can integrate our effort to raise funds for a MAPP Scholarship Fund with the University's fund raising infrastructure. Jordan and Marge have shared some important ideas on the program. We have the support from MAPP and the University in concept; we're now working on how we can roll it out.
- Funding of MAPP Alumni Programs: We are looking at a number of funding solutions to cover the costs of the programs we are interested in running for MAPP Alumni. We will leverage any opportunity we have to be a part of the PENN Positive Psychology Center and MAPP Program budgets. Additionally, we are working on drawing up a budget for all of our programs for this year to determine how much money we would need to raise from outside MAPP (i.e., Corporate Sponsorships of some of our programs), and how much we should each reasonably expect to pitch in. Stay tuned for more.
- Pulse Point Program: We plan to launch our first "What's Up with Our Classmates?" update in September. Our Class Pulse Point People (PPP) are going to help us pull this all together. Here's who's currently signed up to be a PPP: Dana, Amanda H., Marge, Giselle, Kathryn, and David. If you're interested in being on our PPP Team, please email David.

Thank you to everyone for taking time to plug into the MAPP Alumni movement. Modifying the famous line said in the movie "Field of Dreams," starring Kevin Costner and James Earl Jones, we say:

“WE Build It...so WE Will Come!”

Warm Regards,

David, Margaret, and Sulynn

Dates to Plan for and Put In Your Calendar:

July 15 – Send your 50-80 word bio, 80-100 word Capstone summary, and 80-100 word paragraph on your MAPP702 service learning project to sulynn_choong@yahoo.com

July 15 – Email “permission to publish” to sulynn_choong@yahoo.com

August 1 – Email dpollay@yahoo.com if you would like to create and display your research in a poster during our IPPS weekend.

October 6 – 1st Annual Alumni – New MAPP Class Reunion and Reception at the IPPS

November 10 at 11:00a.m. – Semi-Annual State of the Union of Positive Psychology with Marty, and an Update on the MAPP Program from James and Debbie