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1. COMMENCEMENT 2010 IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE ALL YOUR HARD WORK WITH YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND FELLOW STUDENTS WHO ARE NOW YOUR PROFESSIONAL COLLEAGUES!!!

Plans for the Commencement Ceremony are underway. If you have defended, or plan to defend, in Academic Year 2009-2010, on or before May 1, 2010, you are invited to attend the commencement ceremonies.

The Commencement Ceremony will be held on the morning of Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at the Izod Arena at the Meadowlands Sports Complex; the Convocation Ceremony will be held the evening of May 25th at the State Theatre in New Brunswick. There is no limit to the number of guests that you can invite to Commencement, but the Convocation Ceremony is limited to two guests.

There will also be a Pre-Commencement dinner, date and place to be announced.

Please contact Fran at mittlefr@umdnj.edu if a) you are planning to attend the ceremonies; b) you are not sure; c) unable to attend.

2. ACS MARM 2010 Announcement
The 41st Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM 2010) of the American Chemical Society will be held from Saturday, April 10 to Tuesday, April 13, 2010. Hosted by the Delaware Local Section, the meeting will take place at the historic Hotel du Pont in Wilmington, Delaware. Many exciting and informative symposia and events are being planned.

Visit the website at: www.marmacs.org

Be part of this special event with speakers from industry, education and government at a variety of TECHNICAL AND POSTER SESSIONS.

Symposia focused on - Analytical, Biological, Physical, Organic, and Inorganic Chemistry; Fluorine Chemistry, Forensic Chemistry, Bench to Pilot Plant, Medicinal Chemistry; Chemical Engineering; Computers in Chemistry; Chemistry & Government Policy; Chemistry and the Pharmaceutical Industry; Patent Law; Science Education; Career Day; Polymer, Colloid, and Emulsion Chemistry; Nano Science & Technology, and Material Science; Sustainability, Green Chemistry, and Policy.
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS will include a Sunday dedicated to Science Education & Careers. There will be Workshops, Short Courses, Vendor Exhibitions, WCC, Student member events, YCC events, Silver Circle – ChemVets, and additional symposia from other societies.

The deadline for submitting abstracts to participate in sessions in March 1.

General Chair: Martha Hollomon, marthahollomon@marmacs.org
Program Chair: Narmada Gunawardena, narmada.gunawardena@astrazeneca.com
Treasurer: Xiaoli Wang, xiaoli.wang2@astrazeneca.com or call 302-885-6138
Exhibits Chair: Allen Denio, MARM2010.exhibits@gmail.com or call 302-455-0389

Sincerely,
Martha Hollomon, General Chair
marthahollomon@marmacs.org

3. AY 2010 - 2011 TUITION PUBLIC MEETING WITH STUDENTS
A University-wide public meeting with students about tuition for next academic year will be held on Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. by videoconference at the following Campus locations:

- **NEWARK:** Stanley S. Bergen Building 3rd Floor Auditorium
- **NEW BRUNSWICK:** Medical Education Building (MEB) Room 108A
- **PISCATAWAY:** Research Tower, R-123 Dean’s Conference Room
- **SCOTCH PLAINS:** UMDNJ-SHRP Building Room 506
- **STRATFORD:** Academic Center (AC) Room 276
- **CAMDEN:** Dean’s Conference Room 151

4. GradFund, the Resource Center for Graduate Student External Support Summer 2010 Mentoring Programs
Our Summer Mentoring Programs offer current and incoming graduate students a unique opportunity to be immersed in the proposal writing and application process. The programs are each comprised of a series of intensive and structured individual mentoring sessions and group workshops to develop competitive external grant and fellowship applications. External funding includes grants and fellowships offered by a range of public and private agencies to support graduate students as they work towards their degrees. In addition to providing financial support, these awards are an important building block to a successful graduate career and beyond. (Please see attachments)

5. Balancing the Academic, Personal, Social, and Family Spheres in one’s Life
There is no magic solution for attaining a balanced life. It means making a personal decision about the ongoing process of managing the diverse relationships such as academic and personal responsibilities and one's own self-care. The key is to be proactive and make it a conscious decision rather than being reactive and becoming a victim of circumstance. Changing how we approach balancing the diverse spheres in life can result in securing life’s optimal rewards...embracing a life well lived and enjoyed. (Please see attachment)

6. Graduate Student Survey
In preparation for an external review of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at RWJMS, each of the joint UMDNJ-RWJMS and Rutgers graduate programs is performing a self-study and evaluation. Part of the self-study involves obtaining feedback from graduate students about their graduate school experience. We are therefore asking each of you to complete a confidential Survey Monkey questionnaire which will be coming to you by email very soon. Please complete the survey no later than April 1, 2010. This is your opportunity to evaluate your graduate program!