

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** LISA WATSON, BOARD LIAISON, NEWER PROFESSIONALS SECTION  
FRED THRASHER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NALP

**FROM:** ERIC J. STERN, SECTION CHAIR, NEWER PROFESSIONALS SECTION

**CC:** MARGAUX GILLMAN, SECTION VICE CHAIR  
MARYBETH RAJU, SECTION VICE CHAIR  
JO PARENTE, FORMER SECTION CHAIR

**RE:** REPORT TO THE BOARD

**DATE:** July 5, 2007

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### SUMMARY

This is my first report as the Section Chair of the Newer Professionals Forum. Making the transition into this new appointed position was made so much smoother thanks to the efforts and support of outgoing Chair Jo Parente. I feel very fortunate to have a tremendous leadership team and a talented group of members eager to maintain the high activity level of this section. Along with Jo, who will be our liaison to the Planning Committee for the 2008 Newer Professionals Forum, Margaux Gillman and MaryBeth Raju will serve as Section Vice Chairs. We also feel blessed to have the institutional knowledge and wisdom of Lisa Watson guiding us from the Board.

### SECTION CONFERENCE CALLS

On April 17, 2007, we had a section conference call, attended by about 15 members (despite our best promotion efforts; we intend to raise our numbers to at least 25 for our next call this Fall/Winter). The call was led by Jo and I and you can find the minutes from this call at: [https://www.nalp.org/assets/764\\_minutesfromspringquarterl.pdf](https://www.nalp.org/assets/764_minutesfromspringquarterl.pdf)

### ACTIVITY AT 2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Our section played an active role in the 2007 Annual Conference. We had a productive business meeting and also used this occasion to get to know one another and to help provide opportunities to those members looking to become more involved in the section. You can find a copy of the official minutes from the meeting at: [https://www.nalp.org/assets/763\\_minutesfromsectionmeeting.pdf](https://www.nalp.org/assets/763_minutesfromsectionmeeting.pdf)

We also utilized the conference as a platform from which we could give the section heightened visibility and to increase our overall membership numbers. The section produced 250 copies of a handout for distribution at the conference describing how to join the listserv and other easy ways section members could get more involved in projects. A copy of the handout can be found at:  
[https://www.nalp.org/assets/762\\_2007annualconferenceflyer.pdf](https://www.nalp.org/assets/762_2007annualconferenceflyer.pdf)

Section members Jo Parente and Vic Massaglia also delivered successful presentations.

Members also suggested that we try to archive key section documents on the NALP website so that they can be easily accessed (and because our listserv does not allow us to send out attachments to the whole membership list). Since that time, we have archived on the NALP website minutes from our April 2007 conference call, minutes from our section meeting at the 2007 Annual Conference, and the section handout we distributed at the 2007 Annual Conference. Having a link to the handout has been particularly useful when referring newer section members how to sign up for the listserv or how they can get involved in the section.

### ***NEWCOMER'S CORNER* and NALP BULLETIN**

We continue to publish our monthly column in the NALP Bulletin, the *Newcomer's Corner*, which is coordinated under the leadership of MaryBeth Raju. This column gives our section regular visibility to the general NALP membership and provides our members with opportunities to showcase their expertise and aid newer professionals.

Since the last board report, our section has produced one feature article that has already been published and submitted another to be published later in the year. Vic Massaglia wrote an article that was published in the May Bulletin entitled "*The Cycles of Career Services: Diary of a CSO Professional.*" Vic and Christina Jackson submitted an article for publication focused on how career services professionals can use blogging to reach students.

### **2008 NEWER PROFESSIONALS FORUM**

As referenced above, Jo will serve as our liaison to the Planning Committee for the 2008 Newer Professionals Forum. Jo has already heard from a number of section members interested in working with her to provide input and ideas for the 2008 forum.

### **2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

We had a healthy number of proposals submitted on behalf of the section.

- \*\*Eric McKinney (PENN)
- \*\*Vic Massaglia, Christina Jackson and Tariq Hafeez (MICH)
- \*\*Rhonda Beassie (Houston)
- \*\*Elizabeth Wefel (St. Thomas) & Karen Hester
- \*\*Leigh Allen (CLEO/ABA)

Nicole Vikan (Georgetown) has proposed a compelling set of ideas designed to help provide more intimate opportunities for newer professionals to network and get to know one another at the Annual Conference. She is working with MaryBeth Raju and other interested section members on developing activities to bring newer professionals together for networking and the exchange of ideas. She is interested in being connected with a member of the 2008 Annual Conference Planning Committee to discuss her ideas. (I just emailed Fred Thrasher about this).

### **EXPERT CONFERENCE CALL DISCUSSION GROUPS**

Upon being appointed to the chair the section, I proposed this idea as a new work group to President Gihan Fernando. Being a new professional on the employer or law school side can be overwhelming at first. Luckily, NALP and its experienced professionals provide an unlimited amount of advice, experience and guidance for those of us who are new to the profession. Section Vice Chair Margaux Gillman, aided by Christina Jackson and other section members, will be leading a work group designed to work with the Board and other sections to put together a series of conference calls featuring some of NALP's most experienced professionals.

Each conference call will be focused on a different topic and subject area and will feature a short presentation by the expert and then an interactive period during which new professionals could ask questions. Then, if the expert is willing, they can make themselves available after the call to field some questions from newer professionals who either did not have an opportunity to ask their questions or to be on the call at all.

Margaux and her work group committee have proposed two initial conference call discussion groups for July 30 and July 31, 2007---one call for the law school side and one call for the law firm side. Law school professionals will hear from Vic Massaglia about how to use blogs to communicate with students, while law firm professionals will either hear from (1) Jennifer Queen (McKenna Long) on how to use data efficiently and effectively or (2) Carolyn Wehmann (consultant) on how to prepare lawyers for the interview season. After the calls occur, Margaux will conduct an assessment of their effectiveness and develop a plan for rolling out the next series of calls. More details will be provided to the Board in my next quarterly report.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SCANNING**

I led an interactive exercise at the section meeting that took place at the 2007 Annual Conference. I asked members to break off into pairs and come up with a list of the three most challenging issues they had faced professional in their first 1-3 months on the job. Each of the pairs then came up and presented their ideas, while I took notes. After everyone had finished presenting their ideas, I informed the section that we now had 34 environmental scanning ideas we could use for articles, presentation proposals in connection with the 2008 Annual Conference and our Experience Professionals Conference Call work group. A copy of those ideas can be found at: [https://www.nalp.org/assets/763\\_minutesfromsectionmeeting.pdf](https://www.nalp.org/assets/763_minutesfromsectionmeeting.pdf)