To All NJGSS Alums, December 8, 2008

I have just completed finalizing the budget and closing the books on another successful NJ Governor’s School in the Sciences. In spite of having only three weeks, NJGSS Scholars got it done and the quality of the presentations and the journal reports was no different from those of previous years. You are welcome to see for yourself since Myrna has it all posted on our website at http://depts.drew.edu/govschl. We again had popcorn popping in physics, homemade silly putty bouncing in chemistry, and electrodes connected in biology. Surace did his seventeengon thing and scholars danced in the Commons. Unfortunately we couldn't do the field trips, nor were we able to have the evening seminars because of restrictions placed by the available time and funds. But everything else was there; talent show, career day, college night, mathematics of romantic love. And, except for the late night pizza runs, it didn't cost the scholars a dime. The program continues to be tuition free.

All of this was made possible by foundation, corporation, parent and alumni gifts. The parent and alumni gifts not only supported the academic side of the program, but enabled us to maintain all of the social elements that make NJGSS a memorable experience. We didn't have to cut out the DJ from the dances, the Gov school t-shirts, or the final banquet. We were able to afford that final dance and allow the scholars to stay in Riker that last night afterwards.

We have now completed twenty-five years of NJGSS and we are going for twenty six. Needless to say, the financial situation in the state of New Jersey has not improved and so we are again beating the bushes for funds. We need the big donations and we have a wonderful team of dedicated individuals working on the corporations and foundations. If you want to help or have connections, please get in touch. You can contact me or our Administrative Manager, Myrna Papier (mpapier@drew.edu). We also need your individual support. NJGSS now has over 2300 alumni and, as for this year, all of those individual gifts add up to a tidy sum. Obviously I love those big checks, but I am really happy about the amount of support you all have given us. It shows that we did make a difference in your lives.

Thank you for your support. It made the difference in 2006 when the program was going to be cancelled and your petitions convinced the governor how wrong that move was. It made the difference this year in enabling us to have a three-week, tuition-free program for 85 scholars. We at NJGSS have been blessed by those of you who have returned to share your careers and experience with our scholars at our career day. I am sure we will be blessed by your belief that this program is indeed an important one and worth continuation.

Sincerely yours,

David M. Miyamoto, Ph. D.
Director, NJGSS