To All NJGSS Alums,

October 28, 2009

We did it! In spite of a terrible economy that reduced foundation and corporate giving to a fraction of the previous year, we had a successful 26th NJGSS. We again had 85 scholars for three weeks and as in previous years the quality of the presentations and the journal reports matched those of the preceding twenty-five groups. The results are again posted on our webpage which I invite you to visit at http://depts.drew.edu/govschl. We had scholars studying invasive plants on the Drew campus, examining the properties of DNA sequences that cut DNA, and exploring how an ancient culture may have made their beads. Surace met all challengers at the ping pong table in the brand new McLendon Residence Hall that we used this summer. The talent show was another great night and we again had an hour of mathematics and romantic love.

In 2008, nearly half of the $250,000 (~$3000/scholar) we needed came from foundations and corporations. In 2009, it was only about 20%. This was compensated in part by some money we received from the NJ Governor’s School Board of Overseers, but that contribution was only 20% of what we needed. So the balance came from alumni donations and your corporate matching gifts totaling 8%, plus a major gift from Laura (NJGSS ’86) and John Overdeck. As a result we were able to repeat not only the academic program of 2008, but also all of the extras that make NJGSS a memorable experience. As in previous years we had the dances, the talent show, the T-shirts (I wore all twenty six), the final banquet, and the up-all-night ending.

While we are hopeful that we will do better in obtaining foundation and corporate funding this year, the outlook for receiving any state funding remains bleak. So I am again asking for your help. We still need the big donations and we have a wonderful team of dedicated individuals working on obtaining corporate and foundation grants. If you want to help or have connections, please get in touch. You can contact me (dmiyamot@drew.edu) or our Administrative Manager, Myrna Papier (mpapier@drew.edu). We also need your individual support. NJGSS now has over 2300 alumni and those individual gifts help us a lot by covering the cost of many of the “extras” like the dances and T-shirts, in addition to providing the materials and supplies needed for a hand-on science experience. Obviously I love those big checks, but I am really happy about the amount of support you all have continued to give us. It shows that we did make a difference in your lives.

All donations are tax deductible. To send a check, make it out to “Drew University” and put “NJ Governor’s School in the Sciences” in the memo line. Send the check to:

NJ Jersey Governor’s School in the Sciences
Drew University
36 Madison Ave.
Madison, NJ 07940
To make an online donation go to:

https://www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/DRE/onlinegiving/showGivingForm.jsp?form_id=2211

In the Gift Designation area, use the pull down list to select Named Fund. Then in the Comments box, put “Governor’s School in the Sciences”

Thank you for your continued support. It continues to make a difference in the lives of these young people.

Sincerely yours,

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