

Association of Information Management Students Spring 2008 Mid-term Newsletter

May 8th, 2008

To: MSIM Community

From: The Association of Information Management Students

Re: Progress report and organizational activities

The Association of Information Management Students (AIMS) has been around since the beginning of this quarter, and you might be asking yourself "what are they up to?" Well, I'm emailing the MSIM community today to answer that question:

AIMS, in an effort to better represent and serve MSIM students, has been working hard to establish ourselves as members of the iSchool community and as communication channels for information to and from the MSIM students.

Here's how:

We set out to become an official student organization. This will allow us to take advantage of the many resources available at the University of Washington.

-We've become a Registered Student Organization (RSO) through UW. This puts us in line with all other student organizations, giving us full rights to act as a group on campus.

-Our President (Al Youngblood) and our Treasurer (Sathappan Thiagarajan) have set up an AIMS bank account, to be used to securely hold our organizational funds in preparation for AIMS related activities.

We set out to foster communication between the students of the iSchool, both within the MSIM program and beyond. This will allow us to be more aware of student opinion and of current and future plans of other student groups.

-We've sent out web-polls to various AIMS stakeholders, soliciting feedback in the process of our formation, and our continuing plans.

-We've established communication with the first-year Executive MSIM class and attempted to include them in all AIMS decisions.

-We've reached out to some second-year MSIM students to leverage their experience and advice. (This is always still in progress. If you're a second-year MSIM student we would especially be interested in hearing your opinions on your MSIM experience before the end of your time at the iSchool. Please see below for contact details!)

-Our Secretary (Rutu Patel) has begun a reach-out program to the incoming MSIM students. This will hopefully gather their support and raise their awareness of the AIMS organization.

We set out to establish an official presence in the iSchool. This will allow us to be an active catalyst for positive change.

-We sought out help from faculty members who can share our focus on MSIM related issues; we have secured Bob Boiko as our faculty adviser. (An especial thanks to him!)

-We have taken an active role in the ideation behind the formation of an iSchool Student Leadership Council, to report directly to the Dean.

-Our president (Al Youngblood) has made arrangements to attend iSchool faculty meetings, to ensure MSIM student's concerns are voiced during these important events.

-Our Technology Officer (Peter Ellis) has established web server space for AIMS. This evolving web page is located at: <http://students.washington.edu/infomgmt/> and will soon contain a logo our Publicity Officer (Bingyi Lin) as been working to create.

-Our Technology Officer has also extended our presence onto Facebook, establishing the AIMS Facebook Group: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Seattle-WA/Association-of-Information-Management-Students-UW-MSIM/20065411437>

We set out to establish projects which have concrete returns for the MSIM community. These are ongoing projects which we ask that you consider helping us to complete.

-Along with representation from the Exec-MSIM program (Monica Wynn), we've spearheaded an initiative to give a yearly student award to an MSIM student during the iSchool convocation ceremony beginning this Spring. More information about how you can help nominate and select the award recipient will be distributed shortly.

-We've begun examining the possibility of creating and selling iSchool, MSIM, or AIMS t-shirts. Do you have design ideas? Do you know of a good logistical way to print these shirts and sell them? Please contact us!

-We are attempting to create an MSIM-centric student club. Some ideas have been: an Information Security club, a Usability Club, or possibly a job-oriented club that would help bring in speakers from MSIM related jobs to discuss real-world problems of job-finding, etc. Do you have any interest in these clubs? Do you have any other ideas? Please contact us!

-Our Treasurer (Sathappan Thiagarajan) has been working to help create a promotional MSIM video to be distributed to potential students. If you would like to take part in this, please attend the meeting/discussion tomorrow (Friday, May 9th, 3pm, MGH 310D) or email Sathappan.

-Our Publicity Officer (Bingyi Lin) has been examining possibilities to establish communication with outgoing students and alumni. Do you have any ideas on the best way to do this? Facebook Group? Mailing Lists?

-Finally: we're attempting to take part in all iSchool events like iWelcome Week and Spring Fling. I would highly recommend that anyone interested in helping with Spring Fling email the coordinator (Kelly Ann Smith) to show a strong MSIM cooperation.

Finally, we continue to look for ways to better serve the MSIM community!

Definitely a lengthy email, but I hope you can see that we've been working hard to establish AIMS as a representative voice for the MSIM community! Please consider helping us with any of the points previously mentioned. Or, if you have anything else to offer us (advice or otherwise) don't hesitate to email us.

Sincerely,
Doug Kuzenski (kuzenski@u.washington.edu)
AIMS, VP

Contact us any time:
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and
<http://students.washington.edu/infomgmt/>