

Graduate School Faculty Workshop  
October 3, 2001  
Summaries of Panel Presentations

PROFESSIONAL MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM, EBERLY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Panelist: Dr. Norman Freed, associate dean in the Eberly College of Science and professor of physics

There are many baccalaureate-degree holders in the sciences who wish to pursue careers in the private sector but who, for any number of reasons, do not view the science doctorate as the appropriate path to follow. In some cases, these talented and often entrepreneurial individuals have simply opted out of further study while in others they have obtained the Ph.D. only to find themselves ill-equipped to enter the workplace. Mirroring these experiences, the private sector has complained often of newly minted Ph.D.s whose training has been too narrowly focused to meet corporate needs, while at the same time finding severe shortages of individuals having the proper preparation. The Professional Master's Degree program in the Eberly College of Science, in partnership with the Sloan Foundation, is an attempt to be responsive to the concerns of both groups and, in so doing, to offer new opportunities for graduate study in the sciences at Penn State. For more information about the program, visit <http://www.science.psu.edu/journal/Sum2001/SloanSciMasters-Sum01.htm>.

ON-LINE MASTER'S DEGREE IN ADULT EDUCATION

Panelist: Dr. Gary Kuhne, associate professor of education serving on the graduate faculty in the Adult Education program.

Dr. Kuhne's presentation covered the nature of the team development process for the design of the asynchronous on-line master's of education degree program in Adult Education through the World Campus; the teacher-learner, learner-learner, and learner-content interaction designed into the M.Ed. program; and student learning outcomes and evaluation of the on-line program. More information about the Adult Education program can be found at <http://www.ed.psu.edu/adulted/students/intro.asp> and at <http://www.worldcampus.psu.edu>.

PROFESSIONAL MASTER'S PROGRAMS AT A SUBURBAN CAMPUS: PENN STATE GREAT VALLEY

Panelist: Dr. William Milheim, campus executive officer and associate dean, Penn State Great Valley School of Graduate Professional Studies

This presentation highlighted some of the graduate programs and courses available to students in southeastern Pennsylvania at Penn State Great Valley. Additional content included a brief history of the campus, the rationale for its continuing success, and the future vision for this new model of graduate education. More information about graduate programs offered at Penn State Great Valley can be found at <http://www.gv.psu.edu/graduate/>.

#### WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP OPTION

Panelist: Dr. David DeWalle, professor of forest hydrology, School of Forest Resources, College of Agricultural Sciences

The master's degree is becoming the entry-level professional degree in many fields including natural resources that require specialized training beyond broad natural and social science backgrounds. New, cost-effective, and attractive approaches to master's level education are needed that supplement more traditional thesis-oriented programs to meet the current challenges in the profession. The Watershed Stewardship option at Penn State is an example of a program that is accessible to students in a wide variety of existing master's degree programs and provides students with a unique opportunity for interdisciplinary experiential learning. In this option, students participate in a team-oriented, community-based watershed management planning experience. Through broadly conceived depth and breadth course requirements, the Watershed Stewardship option can be integrated with and adapted to fit within existing thesis and non-thesis master's degree programs. Five master's degree programs at Penn State have adopted the program and more than forty graduate students have enrolled to date. Visit <http://www.sala.psu.edu/watershed/graduateStudies/aboutGradStudies.html> for more information about the Watershed Stewardship option.

#### PENN STATE SMEAL MBA PROGRAM: RENEWAL

Panelist: Dr. Dennis Sheehan, professor of finance, The Smeal College of Business Administration.

Dr. Sheehan discussed recent revisions to the full-time residential MBA program in The Smeal College of Business Administration. These revisions were undertaken to make the program better focused on the needs of students and employers. For more information on the redesign of the Smeal MBA program, visit <http://www.smeal.psu.edu/mba/renewal/index.html>.