Greetings SNMA!

As your newly elected President and Chairperson of the Board of Directors, we want to welcome you to the 2006-2007 SNMA year!

This year will be a dynamic one for the SNMA bringing growth, change and progress to our beloved organization! Our paramount goal this year is to close the gaps to make SNMA a truly continuous organization! We will renew our mission of supporting current and future underrepresented minority medical students, addressing the needs of underserved communities, and increasing the number of clinically excellent, culturally competent and socially conscious physicians.

The 2006-2007 National President’s Executive agenda is dedicated to all of us: the SNMA member. In accordance with this, there are several initiatives aimed at creating a more comprehensive membership experience. For one, we’re working hard to bring our members more membership benefits. Please see the Membership Benefit Update at the end of this correspondence for information on our newest membership benefit from Graduate Leverage which provides loan consolidation advice and assistance! Once the new website is up, please check regularly for what’s new in SNMA and your membership benefits! You can also keep up to date with everything that’s going on with SNMA with member emails, the President’s newsletter and the JSNMA!

This Membership Update includes important information about happenings from the National Office of the SNMA!

Yours in SNMA,

Brandi Kaye Freeman Tyese Gaines-Reid

2006-2007 National President 2006-2007 Chairperson of the Board of Directors
Student National Medical Association Student National Medical Association

To remove your name from our mailing list, please click here.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at snma@snma.org or call 202-882-2881
**National Leadership Institutes and Board Meetings**

For **CHAPTER PRESIDENTS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**
Come build your leadership skills and learn more about SNMA!

**June 23-25, 2006**  
**Region VI**  
Washington, D.C.  
One Washington Circle Hotel  
Contact President@snma.org or Immediatepastpres@snma.org for more information

For **ALL MEMBERS:**
**September 2006**  
**Region VII, New England**  
Keep your eyes out for the exact dates and location!

For **ALL MEMBERS:**
**January 2007**  
**Region IV, North Carolina**  
Keep your eyes out for the exact dates and location!

**Website**
As you may have noticed, the website is down for revamping. Check back in July at www.snma.org to see a new & improved SNMA site with new features: like the “My Account” tab, where members can change contact information online, and chapters can check submissions and delegate information.

We will also feature a national SNMA calendar that includes the events of chapters across the nation. Please be sure to inform your regional director of any chapter events BEFORE they occur, so they can be added to the calendar.

**Marketing – What is SNMA?**  
Another focus of the SNMA this year is to get our name out there!

We are hiring a new person at headquarters dedicated to marketing and helping the regions and chapters teach the public about SNMA. This will help SNMA in fundraising, membership drives and future networking.

**Email Accounts**
New this year, we will be offering snma.org email accounts to chapters (one per chapter) and regional officers. Please contact your regional director for more information about this. We will begin with regional officers this summer, and then move to chapters in the fall.

This email account will be continuous for each chapter/region each year and should be passed officer to officer with yearly transition. More information la
I’m a new officer. What do I do first?
SNMA provides the chapter presidents and BOD members with an Operations CD. These will be available in July. They are brand new, including interactive modules to ensure our officers understand the organization. The disk includes pertinent information like application forms, the SNMA Constitution and other manuals.

Attached at the end of this correspondence is the SNMA National Calendar that lists documentation due dates and other important time points!

Conference
Mark your calendars!
April 5-8, 2007 (Easter weekend)
The 2007 Annual Medical Education Conference will be held in San Francisco, CA!

Contact convention@snma.org for more information.

Get Involved!!!
Want to join a committee? Contact the chair of the committee (information below) and complete the attached Committee Member at Large Application

Interested in writing for the JSNMA? Want to share your chapter’s achievements? Email publications@snma.org

Regional PRIDE
Do you know what region you belong to?
Region I: CA, NV, OR, WA, AZ, MT, UT, ID, HI, AK
Region II: NE, WY, SD, IA, WI, IL, MO, ND, MN, KS
Region III: OK, TX, CO, NM, AR, MS, LA
Region IV: GA, AL, FL, NC, SC, and Caribbean
Region V: OH, IN, MI
Region VI: DC, MD, VA
Region VII: ME, VT, NH, CT, MA, RI
Region VIII: PA, WV, DE
Region IX: NJ, NY
Region X: KY, TN

Also don’t forget about the PRIDE campaign!! Chapters completing the required activities of this Campaign that recognizes accomplishments of chapters that are truly representative of the excitement and energy of the SNMA will be recognized at the 2007 National Convention and in the JSNMA!! Contact your chapter president or regional director for more information!
Contact your national leadership

2006-2007 SNMA National Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National President</th>
<th>Brandi Freeman</th>
<th><a href="mailto:president@snma.org">president@snma.org</a></th>
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Have questions about your membership status or need to change your address? Email snma@snma.org
Dear SNMA Member,

The SNMA leadership has received many inquiries from students wanting to know the best way to consolidate their student loans. Similar to last year, the SNMA has been working with Graduate Leverage, at both the national and regional level, to provide objective information and the best action plan. It is our hope that the research information provided below will assist you in making an educated decision regarding the future of your student loans. You can also view the information at the links provided here:

http://www.graduateleverage.com/MedicalStudentComparisonChart.pdf
http://www.graduateleverage.com/MedicalStudentComparisonChart.aspx

MEMORANDUM

From: Graduate Leverage, A SNMA Partner

Subject: Medical Student Loan Consolidation Facts & Best Practices

Many students have questions about loan consolidation. With the bombardment of junk mail, emails, and “final notices” that medical students receive everyday, it is difficult to ascertain what you really need to know about consolidating your federal student loans. The SNMA has received dozens of inquiries from students wanting to know when, why, how, and with whom they should consolidate their student loans. This year, the SNMA, along with a group called Graduate Leverage, has been diligent about providing unbiased information about loan consolidation to our student members at national and regional meetings so that they can make informed decisions about the future of their loans.

Interest rates on federal student loans are at some of the lowest points in 38 years. Interest rates will increase from the current rate of 4.7% to over 6.50% on July 1, 2006. The key to federal student loan consolidation is it allows you to lock in the current low rate, on your Stafford loans, before the rate increases on July 1, 2006. In addition, the ability to do an “in-school” consolidation is being removed on July 1st, 2006 which makes this a critical step for both those students graduating and those not graduating this year. Attached to this correspondence and at the above links is important information in two sections:

1) Important questions you should ask any federal lender before consolidating and

2) A consolidation recommendation for you to consider.

Check the Next Membership Update/President’s Newsletter and SNMA Website for more NEW membership Benefits!!