

## March 2

1.) A MESSA-sponsored bi-monthly (twice a month) academic/professional development workshop.

- Presented by students or professors, meet for 1 hour
- Designed by students for students
- Alex can help in the networking aspect within Chicago because of outreach opportunities
  - There are centers for field specific careers (from CAPS) some of these people are willing to lead workshops for the students
- May need to create a budget for this workshop for speaker's fees, etc.
- Formal instruction for use of the library (possibly part of the workshop and/or orientation)
- Include in constitution that each board member must create one of the workshops throughout the year? To discuss at next MESSA meeting

2.) Expanding MESSA's social presence on campus (cross-program outreach).

- Especially between CMES, NELC and undergraduates
- Attend NELC social hours on Wednesdays and have NELC students come to Thursday Happy Hours – to get to know other groups better
- OR have a specific combined social hour – maybe something next quarter?

3.) New Student Orientation Expansion

- A more involved orientation for new M.A. students in the fall
- Design an orientation in the spring so that way it is ready for the fall
- Have a more specific survey for students to fill out (maybe have two during the year) – which will lead to speakers for the workshops

4.) Other Ideas and Notes

- New survey possibly available after spring break
- **Prospective Day – April 8<sup>th</sup> ---- Will be discussed at next meeting:** DocFilms excursion?, Pair students with similar interests or have a few students available for certain areas, Have student profiles on the website so people can contact us directly, Center will have a reception and then MESSA will have a social after, Material/Brochure – MESSA to work on that before prospective day (Website, FAQ, Board/Student Profiles)
- Mentors/Buddy System between incoming students and current students
- Advisor system: 5-6 students to one faculty member, for 1<sup>st</sup> years