

UC Berkeley STEP 2010 White Paper Competition

Jan 25, 2010

Kick-off and Info Session

Overview

- Overview of White Paper Competition
- Panel Discussion with Previous Finalists
 - Natasha Vidangos and Terry Yen (1st Place)

Magneto-optic technology hits the field: A pilot program to implement a new malaria diagnostic device in Southern Benin

- Evelyn Chang (2nd Place)

Policy Proposals to Reduce Overharvest from Marine Fisheries

- Question and Answer Session

NOTE: Please feel free to ask questions at any time during the session.

The logo for STEP (Science, Technology and Engineering Policy) features the letters S, T, E, and P in white, each inside a dark blue square. These squares are arranged in a descending staircase pattern from top-left to bottom-right. To the right of this graphic, the word "MISSION" is written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font.

MISSION

The Science, Technology and Engineering Policy (STEP) group is a student-run group at UC Berkeley. STEP's vision is to create better technology policy through collaborations between scientists, technologists and policy-makers. To do this, we are building a forum to foster collaborations and build interdisciplinary skills at the intersection of policy and technology.

Other STEP Activities

- The STEP Seminar Series provides a forum for dialog among students and experts on science-policy issues.
- STEP's Science Policy Journal Club meets to discuss current science policy issues highlighted in journals and in the media. In the meetings, students present an article in the science-policy literature and lead a discussion on the arguments raised by the authors.
- STEP's Science Policy Networking Event is an opportunity for students, postdocs, and faculty interested in studying specific science policy issues to meet individuals in complementary disciplines.

Considering getting more involved? Need some leadership experience for your CV? Interested in making some contacts in science policy?

We have a variety of open positions available with a wide range of time commitments.

Visit our web site (<http://step.berkeley.edu>)

A White Paper is...

A persuasive document that usually describe problems and how to solve them...It takes the objective and educational approach of an article and weaves in persuasive...messages typically found in brochures

Technical document that introduces a challenge faced by its readers and makes a strong case why a particular approach to solving the problem is preferred. A white paper usually proposes a solution to a problem but can also introduce a new concept or describe how to perform technical tasks.

STEP White Paper

- Should explore the interplay between an emergent or existing technology and pressing regional, national, or global policy needs
- Identify a problem in society and evaluate possible solutions, including at least one technological solution.
-OR -
Identify a technology that is causing a problem and explore policy solutions.
- Should be accessible to a broad range of scientific experts
- Should persuade policy makers to consider your ideas
- General questions to address:
 - What is the problem? What is your supporting evidence that this problem exists?
 - What are some proposed solutions?
 - What criteria did you use to compare solutions?
 - Why is your solution the best?
 - What are the tradeoffs, uncertainties, and risks of your solution?

Requirements

- **AUTHORSHIP**

- Collaboration between students is encouraged but not required
- No more than 3 authors
- All authors must be undergraduates, graduate students or post docs (proof of status will be required)

- **COMPOSITION**

- ABSTRACT: 300 words
- BODY: 2-8 pages
- REFERENCES
- TRAVEL PROPOSAL (optional): 1 page

- **FORMAT**

- PDF format named with first and last name of one of the authors
- Cover page should include title, contact information and affiliations for all authors, and abstract

Evaluation Criteria

- **Supporting Science**

The clarity with which the supporting science is explained. The relevance of the science to the stated problem. The efficacy of the technology in addressing the problem.

- **Supporting Policy Analysis**

Demonstrated understanding of the policy problem. Is the issue significant and supported by evidence?

- **Effectiveness of the Proposed Solution**

The clarity and detail with which the solution is explained. Thorough development of the solution, including consideration of the positive and negative implications of implementation. Does the solution seem optimal?

- **Originality**

Original ideas and new contributions to the existing debate. Successful submissions are based on documented research, but what are the new ideas or information that you have brought to the discussion?

Judging

- All submissions will first be evaluated by a panel of student judges. This student panel will score the submissions, provide general comments and select finalists to participate in the finalist seminar.
- Finalists will be notified and provided with their scoring sheets.
- Chosen finalists will be asked to present their proposals at an open symposium. A panel of faculty and expert judges will determine the final placement of each submission.

Awards

- Cash Awards
 - First place: \$2000
 - Second place: \$1500
 - Third place: \$1000
 - UCB Undergraduate Award: \$1000
- Travel Grant: Up to \$500 to present your ideas to policy makers
- After the competition?
 - We will provide feedback from the judges on your proposal as well as support for submitting your paper for publication
 - We will provide support for you presenting your work at conferences

Time Line

- **February 15, 2010 (5 pm): *Intent to Submit deadline***
E-mail an abstract of no more than 300 words and proposed title for your submission as well as your expected team members, e-mail addresses, and affiliations to step.whitepaper@gmail.com as soon as possible. Put "STEP Intent to Submit" in the title line. Only one e-mail is needed per team. You will be assigned a faculty advisor at this point.
- **March 15, 2010 (5 pm): *Submission deadline***
Please submit essays electronically in pdf or doc format to step.whitepaper@gmail.com. Put "STEP Paper Submission" in the subject line. The name of the file should be the last name of one of the authors. On the cover page, include all authors' contact information, affiliation, and your abstract.
- **March 4, 2010 (5 pm): *Science Writing Workshop***
A panel of experienced science writers will each give a short presentation, followed by a general Q&A session and time for independent questions. Event space is limited. Priority will be given to those who have provided an Intent to Submit abstract.
- **April 2, 2010: *Finalists announced***
- **April 22, 2010: *Finalist Presentations and Awards Ceremony***
Finalists will present their ideas to those attending the seminar. A panel of faculty and professional judges will evaluate the projects and the winners will be announced at the end of the seminar.

Help, I'm Stuck!

- I'd never even heard of a white paper before I saw your sign and I have no idea how to write one...
 - Past White Paper Competition winners are posted on the STEP website (<http://step.berkeley.edu>)
- How do I know if my ideas are reasonable and well-supported?
 - Once you have submitted your Intent to Submit abstract, we recommend you talk to a faculty advisor. If you are unable to identify faculty to help you, LET US KNOW! In previous years, students who discussed their papers with faculty produced high-quality submissions and improved their chances of selection as finalists.
- Shoot! I meant to ask about X at the info session and forgot...
 - Contact STEP (step.whitepaper@gmail.com) with any additional questions or concerns

Today's Panelists

2009 1st and 2nd Place Winners

Natasha Vidangos and Terry Yen

*Magneto-optic technology hits the field:
A pilot program to implement a new malaria diagnostic
device in Southern Benin*

Evelyn Chang

*Policy Proposals to Reduce Overharvest from
Marine Fisheries*