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### MEMBER Spotlight: Michael Wiley, Project Manager at Amgen



Michael Wiley is Net Impact Seattle's featured member of the month for May 2010. Michael is currently a project manager at Amgen and looks forward to continued career growth with the company. After you've read more about Michael, don't stop there. Send an email to [niseattle@gmail.com](mailto:niseattle@gmail.com) and let us know that you want to share your story too.

#### What do you do and why did you join Net Impact?

I started my career as a wildlife biologist working on population studies of threatened and endangered animals in the western United States and Canada. My career path has been anything but predictable. It is amazing how different your envisioned path is from how things turn out. Each stage has been a great learning experience beyond anything I imagined. I currently work at Amgen, a biotechnology company that focuses on research and drug development for Cancer, auto-immune disorders and other grievous illnesses. My focus is on

early stage Research and Development as a project manager.

I joined Net Impact while enrolled at the Foster School of Business at the University of Washington where I earned my MBA. I have always tried to seek out activities that have a positive impact on the world. Net Impact is a group of very diverse, very smart individuals that share the desire to make a difference. Unlike many university groups with a singular focus such as Finance or Marketing clubs, Net Impact provided an avenue for me to really expand my network and challenge my notions regarding current business models. I decided to join the Board of the Seattle professional chapter as Treasurer so that I could continue to contribute to the amazing organization that has influenced how I see the world and how I plan to grow my career.

**What have you participated in changing that you are very excited about?**

Depending how you look at it, drug development can seem like a frustrating endeavor. The projects I am working on now will not become drugs for another 10-15yrs and you never really know which project will be that breakthrough. With that disconnect between effort and reward I have learned that you have to savor small victories. Incremental changes may not seem like much but they can all add up to a significant change over time. During the recent recession and general belt tightening that many companies are going through we also have been examining our operations and looking for become more efficient. If nothing else the recession has brought out our creativity. I think the biggest change has been the willingness to challenge the status quo and rethink the way we do things everyday.

**What did you learn in the process that you would like to share?**

The thing that I have been thinking about recently is transparency. People as well as companies are often reluctant to show their weakness, to let others know that they have issues that they have not been able to solve. The amazing thing is there is a whole community out there of very bright, very eager and very selfless people willing to pitch in, make suggestions, point out a new direction or even just act as a sounding board. In our organization, that has multiple R&D operations throughout the globe, we have made a concerted effort in the last few years to be more transparent, share best practices, draw on the experiences of others and to reach out to connect regularly just to keep lines of communication open. Net Impact and other organizations that promote stakeholder engagement are really urging us to focus on building our communities so we can develop faster, smarter, more useful ways of connecting and conducting our daily work. This is a lesson we can bring inside our companies as well with external stakeholders and it all starts with being more transparent.

**What changes are you thinking you might want to spark in the future?**

I enjoy Amgen because the people there are extremely passionate about the work that they do. I look forward to growing with the company and expanding my level of influence. Although my work is based on the science of biological systems, every project needs finance, operations, and other technical support. Earning my MBA has not only allowed me to understand these other areas but also communicate better across the project spectrum allowing synergistic benefits. Continuing to break down operational silos and communications barriers should keep me busy and challenged for the near future.

Want to connect with Michael? **Send him an email at [mwiley@u.washington.edu](mailto:mwiley@u.washington.edu)**

***About Net Impact Seattle***

*Net Impact Seattle, a Professional Chapter affiliate of the international non-profit Net Impact, is a network of professionals interested in advancing corporate social responsibility and sustainability. We empower our members to make meaningful change in and through the workplace. Join our effort to help businesses improve communities and the environment. For more information about Net Impact Seattle, visit Net Impact Seattle's Facebook Page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/NetImpactSeattle/162655396045>*

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Book Club Meeting on 6/23 – The Omnivore’s Dilemma

During the Inaugural Book Club meeting on 5/5 we discussed "Portfolios of the Poor: How the World’s Poor Live on \$2 a Day". The book highlights the complexity of the financial transactions of the poor, the use of various instruments and the continued need for flexible microfinance loans. We found it intriguing that people living on less than \$2 dollars a day may even be more inclined to save than others earning more in other societies. Limited access to range of financial safety nets may be one of the contributing factors.

The next Book Club meeting will be held on Wednesday, 6/23 from 6:30 – 9pm. We’re reading “The Omnivore’s Dilemma” by Michael Pollan.

RSVP for this event by sending an email to [veena@veenasmarket.com](mailto:veena@veenasmarket.com)

Veena Prasad, Net Impact member and founder of [Veena’s Market](#) will host the next Book Club discussion. Veena’s Market creates recipe kits that allow you to cook your own authentic Indian food. The kits include all the specialty ingredients such as spices in just the quantities you need and a recipe that really works. The focus currently is on Indian recipes but Moroccan and Ethiopian kits are on the way. **Dinner will feature dishes made using the recipe kits and Veena will have sample spice blends for those who attend.**

## NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

### Networking Happy Hour at Black Bottle in Belltown

**Date:** Thursday, May 20th

**Time:** 5:30 - 7:30pm

**Location:** Black Bottle, 2600 1st Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121

Join us at the Black Bottle for networking and happy hour! Meet other Seattle Net Impact members and mingle with Seattle’s CSR community.

The event is free and open to members and non-members alike.

RSVP on Facebook – [www.facebook.com/netimpactSEA](https://www.facebook.com/netimpactSEA)

## EARTHDAY 2010 REFLECTIONS

**Earth Day 2010 Challenge from the University of St. Thomas:** During the week of Earth Day 2010, people around the world will capture the state of (un)sustainable living in their community as part of A Day in a (Un)Sustainable Life 2010, an annual, global research & policy project lead by the Net Impact chapter at the University of St. Thomas. Simply wander out into your community during the week around April 22nd with a digital camera and a journal. As you wander, photograph examples of what you see as the best and worst in sustainable living practices. As you compose a photograph, use your journal to capture the thoughts and feelings you are experiencing. Then share your photos and your thoughts with us.

**In response,** Net Impact Seattle captured reflections from around Puget Sound.

**Ariyah DeSouza:** "What makes you feel more connected to Seattle - the people and the land - than restoring it on a beautiful Sunday afternoon with others? Donuts, coffee, humor and hard work in the form of service projects enhance our sense of self-worth, our value as a community members, and our belief that sustainability efforts can make a real difference."



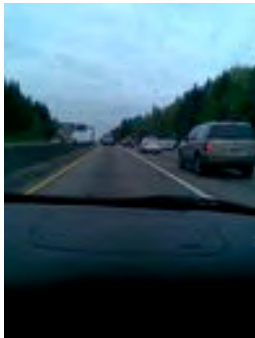
***Duwamish Park in Seattle***

**Kala Fleming:** "Tomato Plants for Earth Day! For Earth Day Celebrations at a manufacturing facility in Everett, an employee thought the annual celebration should tap into the Victory Garden idea that originated during World War I and World War II where individuals grew their own food to reduce the stress on the public food supply system. So that theme inspired the planning for Earth Day 2010 and nearly 150 other employees got Early Girl tomato starts for their gardens instead of seeds. I had always considered the obvious benefits of gardening such as the pride and security that growing your own food brings, but I was impressed to discover that many also view gardening as an important tradition that they can pass on to their children to increase their appreciation of community and environment and their general awareness of the how food they eat is produced."



***Manufacturing facility in Everett, WA***

**Claudia Frere:** “Perspective is always clear when you carpool. Carpooling has been economically and socially beneficial for me. Time spent not having to think about driving allows me to ease into the day and mentally prepare for what's. Typically, my work hours are absorbed in meetings, people and projects so getting the downtime in commute is a saving grace that helps me be more effective. It goes without saying that the carbon footprint benefits tremendously too, and I'm always reminded of how fortunate I am whenever I look at SOVs in heavy commute times, crawling, inching and staggering along 405.”



***On I-405 heading from Bothell, WA to Seattle***

**Megan Le:** "I took the first picture April 21st, 2010 at the Go Green Conference in Seattle, WA. The event was held at the Hyatt Olive 8, a LEED certified building. Instead of setting out individual water bottles for attendees, they took the more sustainable option and used tap water and reusable glasses.

In the second picture, taken at the same event, one of the breakout session rooms was too small for the number of attendees, so they had to ship in flat screen televisions to broadcast the speakers live to the overflow room all day long. This seems very unsustainable to me and it would have been better just to book a bigger room."



**Amy Winner:** "Eating Well on Earth Day! This year I'm going to try my hand at organic gardening - I planted a P-patch garden to grow some of my own food and enjoy the great Seattle summer outdoors. And to keep food miles down, I love wandering through one of Seattle's Farmers Markets - there's one almost any day of the week with stands and stands of fresh, delicious local produce, and it encourages me to eat what's in season."



