



October 2007

As the fall semester marches steadily on, it's exciting to see all that UR WISE has planned. A very successful summer research conversation was held last month that resulted in the panelists sharing the following advice with the freshmen in the audience:

- It's never too early to think about getting hands-on research experience. Don't be afraid to start looking at doing research during your freshman year even if you think you don't have anything to offer';
- Read UR faculty biographies online and contact them if their work sounds interesting;
- Talk with upperclassmen and graduate students about their research, and see if you can shadow them for a few hours;
- Apply for a REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) program at www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm where you can search the directory of active REU sites by research areas.
- Visit the Career Center's website (www.rochester.edu/careercenter) and search for your area(s) of interest;
- If you get offered a position, take it even if you think it's not interesting or you might not like it. You might be pleasantly surprised!

Read on to see what is planned for UR WISE during October 2007!

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MentorNet[®]

The E-Mentoring Network for Diversity in Engineering and Science

Get Career Advice From An Engineer or Scientist!

Here is an opportunity for students studying science, mathematics or engineering. Get "real world" information, encouragement, advice, and access to professional networks from professionals working in your field.

MentorNet's One-on-One Mentoring Programs focus on matching women and underrepresented minorities with female or male professionals from all sectors as mentors for one-on-one, email-based mentoring (e-mentoring) relationships. MentorNet proteges are in the engineering and science fields and are community college, undergraduate, and graduate students, postdocs and untenured faculty.

The program has proven effective by providing information, encouragement, advice, and access to networks that are otherwise often unavailable to those underrepresented in the fields of engineering and science. This is why more than 90% of participants would recommend MentorNet's e-mentoring programs to a friend or colleague.

How can you find a mentor?

1. Join the MentorNet Community (<http://www.mentornet.net/join>);
2. Sign in to the Community and follow the One-on-One Mentoring Programs links to create a protégé profile.

Since 1998, MentorNet has matched more than 19,000 pairs of protégés and mentors with strong results. We hope you will join them! For more information, go to www.MentorNet.net

Upcoming WISE Events

Summer Scientific Research Conversations #2

Friday, October 12, 5:00-6:00 pm, Computer Studies Building 209

"What did you do this summer?" You're probably sick of hearing this question by now, but many WISE students were involved in fascinating research projects, and several of them have offered to give an informal overview of their recent research to other WISE student. Since many women majoring in science and engineering have difficulty picturing themselves in the lab environment, we hope that by sharing listening to their experiences, you will be inspired to consider doing research as well.

The panelists:

- **Laurel Grabowitz '08**, biology major, participated in the University of Rochester deKiewiet Fellowship Program at Strong Memorial Hospital's Surgical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Department;
- **Shweta Krishna '08**, molecular genetics major, was a University of Rochester deKiewiet Fellow in the summer of 2006 where she studied Mitochondrial DNA maintenance proteins. During Summer 2007, she researched contact inhibition in mouse and rat cells (the bigger picture for this project is analyzing contact inhibition in cancer);
- **Ashanti O'Steen '08**, biology major, conducted research at the Forensic Science division of the Cook County Public Defenders Office in Chicago, IL;
- **Gloria See '09**, electrical and computer engineering major, worked in Professor Fauchet's lab and created

porous silicon photovoltaic devices (like solar cells) as test structures for betavoltaic batteries.

RSVPs are greatly appreciated: mpelcher@mail.rochester.edu.

MentorNet Registration

Monday October 15, 5:00 pm, Hylan 303 and Tuesday, October 30, 7:00 pm, Goergen 102

www.mentornet.net

You've got questions about your future. Why not email a mentor about them? Come find out about MentorNet's award-winning One-on-One Mentoring Programs that pair women and other underrepresented engineering and science students with professionals in their field. By signing up at a URWISE registration event, you will learn how you can:

- Communicate by email about career goals, course work, and many other topics.
- Spend just 20 minutes a week-and receive advice and support from somebody working in your field; build your pre-professional network.
- Take part in a lively online community of professionals and students all over the world.
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RSVP to Melanie Pelcher at mpelcher@mail.rochester.edu.

Xerox Information Session

Tuesday, October 16, 5:00 pm, The Meliora Restaurant, Salon D

An experienced graduate? Almost sounds like a contradiction in terms. But as you venture out in today's job market, you'll quickly discover that candidates who have the edge are those equipped with both a college education and real-world experience. At Xerox, they'll help you get that edge.

Xerox College Experiential Learning Programs (XCEL) are summer Internships, co-op and work/study programs offered to undergraduate and graduate students. They're invaluable for two reasons: they provide Xerox with an opportunity to recruit and evaluate students for potential regular full-time new college positions. And they provide college students with -- in addition to a paycheck -- real-life, on-the-job experience in their field of study. So once you get your degree, you can hit the ground running.

To learn more about opportunities at Xerox, attend this WISE-sponsored information session. RSVP to Melanie Pelcher at mpelcher@mail.rochester.edu by October 15.

Engineering at Rochester Hosts Needed

Friday, October 26, 5:00 pm, Wallis Hall

www.enrollment.rochester.edu/engineers

The Admissions Office in collaboration with the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences will be hosting its annual recruitment program, *Engineering at Rochester 2007*. The program targets high school juniors and seniors who have expressed an interest in studying engineering, science, mathematics and computers at the University of Rochester. Since nearly half of the 50 participants are expected to be girls, the WISE Program has offered to help find students to serve as hosts provide insight into the ways engineering and science studies are applied at UR and in our daily lives.

If you are able to host, contact Nikki Terry at mterry@ur.rochester.edu as soon as possible.

Women in Engineering Dinner

Thursday, November 1, 8:00 pm, The Meliora Restaurant, \$16

Join us at a dinner to socialize with female engineering students, practicing engineers, and engineering professors.

The dinner will be preceded by a keynote address by a local female engineer. Informal dinner conversations will focus on the sharing of academic success strategies.

RSVP by October 26 to Marlenny Espinal at mespinal@mail.rochester.edu to join us for what promises to be a very inspirational evening. Co-sponsored by SWE.

Power Dead Even Rule and Other Gender Differences in the Workplace

Thursday, November 1, 8:00 pm, Goergen 101

The *Power Dead Even Rule and Other Gender Differences in the Workplace* video succeeds in getting people to laugh and talk about the culture differences between men and women as the first step in dealing with these differences. After watching this short video, Mary Ellen Coleman, Information Architect for IBM's Information Management Client Support, will lead the audience in discussion and activities as she explores the different cultures men and women grow up in and the "rules" each culture uses to define appropriate adult behavior. Why do these cultures clash and what can you do about it?

Women and men communicate more effectively when they understand the cultural differences unique to each gender.

RSVP to Melanie Pelcher at mpelcher@mail.rochester.edu by October 29.

WISE-Related events:

FIRST LEGO League Field Set-up Kit Build Session #2

Saturday, October 13 (2-7 pm, Wilson Commons Bridge Lounge)

The Finger Lakes FIRST LEGO League planning committee is looking for volunteers to help build the LEGO field set-up kits to be used in this year's competition. No experience needed. Pizza and refreshments will be provided. For more information and to sign up, contact Fabian Taylor at fabian.taylor@simon.rochester.edu.

Eisenberg Internship Symposium

Friday, October 19, 2-4 pm, Eisenberg Rotunda, Schlegel Hall

Attend the Eisenberg Undergraduate Research Symposium to hear chemical engineering students discuss the research they have undertaken with the support of Richard Eisenberg '45, a former chemical engineering faculty member, and a current faculty mentor.

The WISE students who will be participating are:

- **Graciela Mohamedi-Smith** - *Synthesis of hollow polymer shells and attempted micro-encapsulation of metallic flakes* (Mentor: Professor M. Yates)
- **Helen Park** - *Diffusion through Reversibly Associating Polymers* (Mentor: Professor M. Anthamatten)

Volunteers Needed: SWE's Girl Scout Badge Workshop

Saturday, November 3, 9:00am-2:00 pm, Goergen Hall

The Society of Women Engineers' (SWE) Girl Scout Computer Fun Badge Workshop is a really fun and rewarding day. Volunteers from SWE and other science and engineering disciplines work with Junior Girl Scouts to help them earn their Computer Fun Badge.

Forty-two Girl Scouts and their leaders will be coming to campus, and you are needed help to make sure the day runs smoothly. This includes everything from registering the girls, to helping them on the computers, and helping

them reverse engineer computers. The main features of the day are making a newsletter on Power Point and creating a virtual bridge using West Point Bridge Design.

If you are interested in helping out, please e-mail Katie Litts at klitts@mail.rochester.edu.

Volunteers Needed: Finger Lakes FIRST LEGO League Tournament

Sunday, December 9, Goergen Athletic Center, 8 am-5 pm

www.seas.rochester.edu/SEAS/FLL.html (Account: Volunteer; Password: 2007)

Would you like to make a difference and inspire a next generation scientist or engineer? You can help by serving as a judge, referee, team host, queuer, time-keepers/scorekeepers, and more at this year's Finger Lakes FIRST LEGO League Tournament.

Young boys and girls ranging from the ages of 9-14 have been tasked with building a robot in the FIRST LEGO League program and engaging themselves in a research topic around this year's topic of Power.

Volunteer registration is now open for the Finger Lakes FIRST LEGO League Tournament. Double-click on the "Volunteer Registration" link on the left hand column of the above page, and then click on the "FLFLL Database" link. Access to the system is limited to five simultaneous connections at one time, so if you try to get on and you can't, please try back a little later.

If you volunteered last year, you already know it was a great time for everyone, and the middle school competitors gave us high praise for the work of the volunteers. If you have any questions about the registration system or tournament, contact John Ballou at 275-7899 or blou@mail.rochester.edu.

Internship Opportunity:

Summer Institute at Harvard-MIT Health Sciences and Technology

<http://web.mit.edu/hstsummer>, Applications available November 1

The Summer Institute at Harvard-MIT Health Sciences and Technology offers a unique opportunity for outstanding students considering a career in biomedical engineering and medical science. Program participants gain hands-on research experience working alongside members of an internationally recognized scientific community. The programs are designed to help participants explore career options or prepare for graduate level research. There are two exciting areas of study to choose from: Bioinformatics and Integrative Genomics, and Biomedical Optics.

The HST Summer Institute is part of an effort at MIT to help facilitate the involvement of talented students in engineering and science research, in particular underrepresented minorities, first-generation college students, and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Save these Dates:

Friday, October 12 (5:00 pm, CSB 209) – Summer Scientific Research Conversation #2

Saturday, October 13 (2-7 pm, Wilson Commons Bridge Lounge) – FIRST LEGO League Field Set-up Kit Build Session #2.

Monday, October 15 (5:00 pm, Hylan 303) – MentorNet Registration #1

Tuesday, October 16 (5:00 pm, The Meliora Restaurant) – Xerox Information Session

Friday, October 19 (2:00-4:00 pm, Schlegel Hall) – Eisenberg Internship Symposium

Friday, October 26 (5:00 pm) – Engineering at Rochester, overnight hosts needed

Tuesday, October 30 (7:00 pm, Goergen 102) – MentorNet Registration #2

Thursday, November 1 (6:00 pm, The Meliora) – Women in Engineering Dinner.

Thursday, November 1 (8:00 pm, Goergen 101) – Power Dead Even Rule and Other Gender Differences in the Workplace

Saturday, November 3 (10 am-1 pm) – SWE's Computer Fun Badge Workshop for Junior Girl Scouts. Contact Katie Litts at litts@mail to volunteer.

Sunday, December 9 (8 am-5 pm) – FIRST LEGO League Championship Tournament; volunteers needed. Contact John Ballou at 275-7899 or blou@mail.rochester.edu.

Friday, December 14 – Study Break

Saturday, February 2 (10 am-1 pm) - SWE's Making it Matter Badge Workshop for Junior Girl Scouts

Friday, March 28 (4:00 pm) – URWISE Club Rochester

Contact Us

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The University of Rochester's Women in Science and Engineering Program (UR WISE) was established in 1992 to support women's participation in scientific, engineering, and quantitative disciplines at all levels. The WISE Program seeks to ensure that women may fully explore science through study, research experience, and career-building opportunities. The mission of the WISE Program is to attract women to, and retain them in, science and science-related fields at the University of Rochester by:

- *Creating the conditions of equal access for the pursuit of science by women*
- *Educating the University community about the issues of women and science*
- *Pressing for this as a University priority and guiding the University community and leadership toward this objective*