June 2008

Now that summer is in full swing, we hope that you are enjoying yourself. Summer is the time when we at the University do a lot of the planning for the upcoming academic year. The staff of UR WISE is so excited about some of the things we're planning for next year that we couldn't wait to share them with you! Read on to see what is planned for UR WISE during Fall 2008!

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Join the UR WISE Facebook Group

We just created the UR WISE Facebook group where members can connect with other UR WISE members, share pictures and videos, and to easily share information and discuss topics of interest. It will also be a great way to keep track of upcoming WISE events and volunteer opportunities. Just click here to join, or search "UR WISE" in Facebook groups.

WISE Summer Researchers Unite!

Are you involved in research this summer here in Rochester? Would you like to share with others what you're working on and get feedback on any difficulties you may be encountering? If so, join us for coffee and bagels on Tuesday, July 15, at 8:30 am in Lattimore 311A. To ensure that enough refreshments are available, RSVP to Melanie Pelcher by Friday, July 11, at mpelcher@mail.rochester.edu.

MentorNet Feedback Sought

We are pleased to announce that during our first year as a MentorNet partner, forty-two undergraduates, graduate students and junior faculty members affilitiated with the University of Rochester joined the MentorNet community! Our goal is to double that number during the 2008-09 academic year, and we need your help.

If you were one of the students who was matched with a mentor, we'd like to hear about your experience. Is it one you would engage in again? Would you recommend the program to a friend? Do you have any ideas on how to get more of our students participating in this program? Would you be willing to share your experiences with other students as part of a fall recruitment campaign? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, please email your thoughts to Lisa Norwood at lisa.norwood@rochester.edu.

If you are ready to find a mentor, go to www.mentornet.net/join to sign into the Community. Follow the One-on-One Mentoring Programs links to create a protege profile.

Position Available: UR WISE Student Assistant

The Director of the College's Women in Sciences & Engineering (WISE) Program is looking to hire another student assistant to help with taking part in necessary organizational and administrative tasks in relation to UR WISE programs. The ideal candidate would be a sophomore WISE student available to work during the fall and spring semesters for a total of 5-15 hours per week, and who is able to:

- Work independently and with little supervision;
- Demonstrate the ability to complete tasks in a timely fashion;
- Effectively manage multiple tasks to completion;
- Attend meetings as directed;
- Understand the importance of attracting, retaining and graduating women in science and engineering fields.

You will meet regularly with the director of the College's WISE Program for an update on the status of projects, and to receive additional guidance. Typical duties and responsibilities will likely involve:

- Making recommendations on program and advising enhancements to current program;
- Managing a database of WISE students;
- Assisting with data collection and analysis of Rochester's WISE population;
- Offering input and recommendations to improve students' experiences;
- Developing, planning, coordinating and/or directing new initiatives such as a Networking Dinner, monthly lunches with WISE students, and outreach events;
- Coordinating a student advisory committee;
- Developing and making presentations to students, faculty and staff.

Please e-mail Lisa Norwood, lisa.norwood@rochester.edu if you are interested in interviewing for this position.

Volunteers Needed: WISE Breakfast Hosts

Wednesday, August 30th 10:00-11:30 a.m., Interfaith Chapel

During this year's freshman Orientation, UR WISE will sponsor a reception to publicize how the Women in Science and Engineering Program at the University of Rochester supports women's participation in scientific, engineering, and quantitative disciplines at all levels. Upperclass volunteers are needed to staff our tables and answer questions. RSVP to Melanie Pelcher, mpelcher@mail.rochester.edu if you are willing to assist.

Peer Coaching Program 2008-2009

Last year, UR WISE developed a pilot peer-to-peer mentoring program that assigned junior and senior students to small groups of freshmen in select majors in order to help them adjust to college life and courses within their intended majors. Due to our late start in planning, the Peer Coaching Program was not as successful as we would have liked. We are hopeful that with the feedback we've received from last year's participants and modifications we're making to the recruitment and matching of mentors and mentees, the second year of this pilot will show more remarkable results.

This year, there are once again only a handful of freshmen women who are intending to major in computer science, electrical and computer engineering, mechanical engineering, optics mathematics, applied mathematics, chemical engineering, physics and astronomy. As a way to encourage these women to persist in their chosen fields, and to help them feel part of a community where they are successful, encouraged and supported, an invitation to join our Peer Coaching Program will be sent to them next month.

If you are a junior or senior WISE student who remembers how it felt to lose your support structure, question your ability to succeed in a predominantly male environment, not know how to access information and services, and wonder whether all the time you're putting into to your chosen major will be worth it in the long run, PLEASE volunteer to be a Peer Coach. You will be expected to communicate regularly with your co-coach and mentees, attend 2-3 group events each semester, and share any concerns you have with the coordinator of the Peer Coaching Program.

If you are interested in learning more about being a peer coach, please email Melanie Pelcher, mpelcher@mail.rochester.edu.

Members Needed: UR WISE Student Advisory Committee

One of our goals for this year is to raise the visibility of UR WISE within the math, science and engineering departments it serves. To do that, we are looking for undergraduate WISE students who are interested in serving as liaisons between their department's faculty and staff and WISE's students and administrators. This committee will meet monthly during the academic year to devise plans to improve the climate for, and the recruitment and retention of female students in their respective departments. We will also likely discuss how to involve female graduate students in our structure. To submit your name as a committee member, please contact Melanie Pelcher at mpelcher@mail.rochester.edu.

Contact Us

www.rochester.edu/college/wise

Lisa Norwood
Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences
Director, Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Program
Coordinator, Kaufmann Entrepreneurial Year (KEY) Program
306 Lattimore Hall
Rochester, NY 14627-0076
(585) 275-4155
(585) 461-4735 (fax)
LNRW@seas.rochester.edu

Melanie Pelcher
WISE Student Assistant
Riverview 400C
CPU 274690
Rochester, NY 14627
(585) 274-2371
mpelcher@mail.rochester.edu

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*