

June 1999

Reunion

REACH

WPI Camp REACH
100 Institute Rd.
Worcester, MA 01609

Summer Reunion -- ARE YOU READY???

The next reunion activities for all alumni (campers and staff) is planned for

TUESDAY, JULY 27th

5:00 PM

in Founders Hall, located on Boynton Street between Institute Road and Salisbury Street – across the street from a large parking lot.

This is the first Tuesday after the '99 program starts. First, we'll have dinner -- there will be a table ready for '97 alumni, and another for '98 – and I hope to see the tables full of alumni! Then, you'll participate in the recreational activity planned for that night. WPI's Society of Martial Arts will be leading a workshop on self-defense. This should be both informative AND fun.

Because of the enormous fundraising that we have to do each year for the program (about \$30,000) and the fact that we have not as yet raised our goal, we need to charge \$7 each (our cost for dinner) for participating in this reunion.

But, think of what you'll get:

\$7 = dinner with friends & self-defense workshop!

If you can't come by 5:00 – you can arrive later, but please let Denise know. Be aware that dinner will be available from 5-6, only.

If you can't come because of money: PLEASE contact Denise.

If you can't come because of transportation – check out the directory attached to this email.

If you can't come because you're worried that you'll be the only one – don't be! I posted the idea of this get-together using our email alias, and got many favorable responses!

RSVP by calling or emailing Denise by July 15 (contact info at the end of this newsletter). Please bring the \$7 with you, and let me know of any last minute cancellations! ♦



Winter Reunion A Success

Reunions were held for the '97 and '98 alumni on February 27. Getting into bathing suits and splashing in the pool was a nice break from winter. And even nicer for the '98 alumni – who were not able to swim once during their camp program! There were about fifteen people from '97 and '98, plus several staff members. ♦

REACH Got Game

REACH day at a WPI women's basketball game was held on February 20, 1999. Attending from '98 were Emily Hicks, Jennelle Pope, Sofia Wronski, and Kasey Grzyb. Melissa Grant and Aimee Hart were the representatives from the '97 group. REACH staff were represented by Amy Adams (CIT '97 and '98), Denise Nicoletti, and her family (Celeste, Lucio, Marcello, and husband Rich). The WPI women suffered a narrow loss to Babson College, but it was a good game throughout. ♦

REACH Workshop Wins Accolades

Many of workshops that you participated in during the camp were developed by undergraduate students at WPI: the who-dunnit (forensics) workshop, the home-heating workshop, and the solar cooking workshop (held during the '98 program and pilot tested on some lucky volunteers from the '97 program). Students work on the development and testing of the workshops as part of one of WPI's graduation requirements: the Interactive Qualifying Project or IQP. This project, which is the equivalent of 3 courses, helps students understand the relationship between technology and society. More information on IQPs can be found at

<http://www.wpi.edu/Academics/Projects/>

There is an annual WPI competition for IQPs called the President's IQP Awards. The project that developed the solar cooking workshop tied for third place. The students in charge of the project were Jonathan

Continued on Page 3

Engineering and Women is a Good Match

You may wonder why REACH focuses on attracting women to engineering. There are several reasons:

- to empower women so that they can participate fully in important decisions, many of which are based on technology (pollution, recycling, etc.).
- to give you the knowledge to decide what you want for your career, and the strength to stick with your decision when possible adversity arises
- to meet the shortage of engineers in the workplace, a shortage which is expected to increase with time. It was reported in a press release from Smith College that the "National Science Foundation anticipates growth in engineering-related jobs during the coming decade at a rate three times higher than for jobs generally. A recent Bureau of Labor Statistics study predicts that the demand for computer engineers will more than double by 2006. Also predicted to be in high demand are electrical and electronic engineers, as well as engineering managers."

Others are thinking along the same

Continued on Page 3

More News on Diversity in Engineering

The following are quotes taken from a National Science Foundation publication, "NSF PR 99-36: S&E DEGREES TO WOMEN, MINORITIES ON THE RISE". The complete report is available on the NSF website at <http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/srs/nsf99338>

"The number and proportion of women and minorities enrolled and earning undergraduate and graduate science and engineering [S&E] degrees continues to increase, while the number of white men doing so is decreasing. Between 1982 and 1994, the percentages of black, Hispanic and American Indian students taking many basic and advanced mathematics courses doubled. And the 1996 National Assessment of Educational Progress [NAEP] mathematics assessment results showed that the "gender gap" in mathematics achievement has, for the most part, disappeared, says Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering: 1998, a report by NSF's Division of Science Resources Studies [SRS]. Despite these gains, women, minorities, and persons with disabilities remain underrepresented in science and engineering fields, said the ninth in a series of Congressionally mandated reports on the status of women and minorities in science and engineering." ♦

Submit ideas for the next newsletter!

This newsletter is published twice a year. Your submissions make each issue a success! Please mail your achievements, questions, advice you'd like to share, etc. to Denise.

Continued from Page 2

lines. The following is an edited version of a press release from Smith College (in Northampton, Massachusetts).

Citing both a pressing national need for women engineers and a commitment to providing significant new opportunities for its graduates, the Smith College Board of Trustees approved a plan establishing the nation's first engineering program at a women's college.

Smith President Ruth J. Simmons states that "Women represent more than 50 percent of the college-going population but only 9 percent of the engineering work force," she observed. "Clearly, it's a matter of national import that our country not only produce more women engineers but also develop new, truly effective models for educating them." The new program is likely to focus initially on three fields: computer engineering, electrical engineering, and environmental engineering. ♦

Continued from Page 2

Barlow, Jaye Jillson and Christina Watson with advisor Chrys Dementry. '98 campers should remember Jaye – she led the workshop during the camp.

Congratulations to the workshop developers! ♦

Great Websites

- 1) National Engineers Week was held February 21-27, 1999, and its celebration included a summit of national leaders working to increase the number of qualified engineering candidates (that means you!). One of the highlights of the summit was the unveiling of a new website developed by Eastman Chemical Co., aimed at stoking interest in engineering among students in grades six through nine:

<http://www.discoverengineering.org/>

- 2) We often get requests for information on other programs – we've listed the ones that we are aware of in the area and beyond on REACH's web:

<http://www.wpi.edu/~reach/>

If you know of other programs that should be included, please let Denise know!

- 3) An even better resource on Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering --

<http://www.scicentral.com/W-02womi.html#organizations>

Go to the K-12 Science page (K-12 refers to grades Kindergarten through 12th) and find information on science projects, getting in touch with scientists, all kinds of different areas within science and engineering... This is really a 'must-see'. ♦

Why RSVP?

We ask campers and alumni to RSVP for all events. RSVP stands for *respondez, s'il vous plait*, which is French for "Please respond". Although we want to hear from everyone invited (whether you can or cannot come), we usually hear from less than half of you!

This may be because you don't realize how important it is. One reason we need you to RSVP is so that we have an accurate headcount, which is used to calculate the number of staff members we'll need to supervise, the amount of food, etc. Another reason is that if we know for certain that you are coming, we don't mind holding things a few minutes until you arrive.

SO – please let us know if you are coming, and it's very nice to hear if you have a last minute cancellation! ♦

Problem Solving is No Problem

Tracy Lavengood, ('97), Middle School Teacher

After my summer at Camp Reach I returned to school to find that we had several open time blocks in our schedule that could not be used for our standard academic classes. I asked if we could create a course on problem solving for those periods. The curriculum is a cross between *Odyssey of the Mind* and Camp Reach. During the fourth quarter students get to identify problems in the school or community. Sometimes they even identify problems in other countries. Each team then chooses a problem and works to solve it. This, of course, is based on Camp Reach design projects. But once the kids finish with the design, they also have to build it. In getting our work off the paper and into reality, we learn a lot about how important it is to have clear and detailed plans. We also got to use power tools--that got us all charged up! Last spring Emily Hicks' ('98) and Kasey Grzyb's ('98) team designed and built a private study area for when kids need to get away from distractions. Once they came up with design ideas they had to present their plans to the principal and get approval regarding the safety of their structure. The team even researched the best colors to paint it, finding research about colors that were calming and that promoted quiet thought. This year's crew can't wait to pull out the drills and power saws! ♦

Thanks for science fair help!

Sarah-Neel Smith ('97)

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of the people who responded to my (email) question about friction and mass. I will now be able to finish up my science experiment with a good conclusion.

NOTE: Denise also helped Crystal Tolman ('97) a bit on a project... and we're happy to talk with all of our alumni! Check out the contact information at the end of the newsletter. ♦

News from REACH '97

Interesting Way to Help Others

Sarah-Neel Smith ('97) says that she recently cut off 10 inches of her hair and donated it to Locks of Love, a company that makes wigs (out of donated hair) for children with permanent hair loss. For more info, check out <http://www.locksoflove.com>

High School Plans

Alumni from the '97 program are going to be entering high school this fall (how time flies!). Below are the names and schools that we know of right now. Is your name not listed? PLEASE send your high school to Denise! She needs the names in order to track how great you're doing!

Sara Burnham: St.Peter-Marian Central Catholic High School

Aimee Hart: Gardner High School

Casey Chaffin - The Bromfield School

♦

Good Advise for All

-Denise

I got the following 'advise' in an email forwarded by a friend, and it seems to me to be so important that I wanted to share it with everyone. Much of it does not apply to you NOW, but will some day, so keep it in mind, and keep this in a safe place! It embodies so much of what I want for all of you (besides that you all enroll as engineering students at WPI!).

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD HAVE:

1. One old boyfriend you can imagine going back to and one who reminds you of how far you've come.
2. Enough money within your control to move out and buy a place on your own, even if you never want or need to.
3. Something perfect to wear if an employer or the love of your life wants to see you in an hour.
4. A purse, a suitcase and an umbrella you're not ashamed to be seen carrying.
5. A youth you're content to move beyond.
6. A past juicy enough that you're looking forward to retelling it in your old age.
7. The realization that you are actually going to have an old age and some money set aside to help fund it.
8. A set of screwdrivers, a cordless drill and a black lace bra.
9. One friend who always makes you laugh and one who lets you cry.
10. A good piece of furniture not previously owned by anyone else in your family.
11. Eight matching plates, wineglasses with stems and a recipe for a meal that will make your guests feel honored.
12. A resume that is not even the slightest bit padded.
13. A feeling of control over your destiny.
14. A skin care regime, an exercise routine and a plan for dealing with those few other facets of life that don't get better after 30.
15. A solid start on a satisfying career, a satisfying relationship and all those other facets of life that do get better.

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4

News from REACH '98

YOU SHOULD KNOW:

1. How to fall in love without losing yourself.
2. How you feel about having kids.
3. How to quit a job, break up with a man and confront a friend without ruining the friendship in all three.
4. When to try harder and when to walk away.
5. How to kiss a man in a way that communicates perfectly what you would and wouldn't like to happen next.
6. How to ask for what you want in a way that makes it most likely you'll get it.
7. That you can't change the length of your calves, the width of your hips or the nature of your parents.
8. That your childhood may not have been perfect, but it's over.
9. What you would and wouldn't do for love or more.
10. How to live alone, even if you don't like it.
11. Who you can trust, who you can't, and why you shouldn't take it personally.

◆

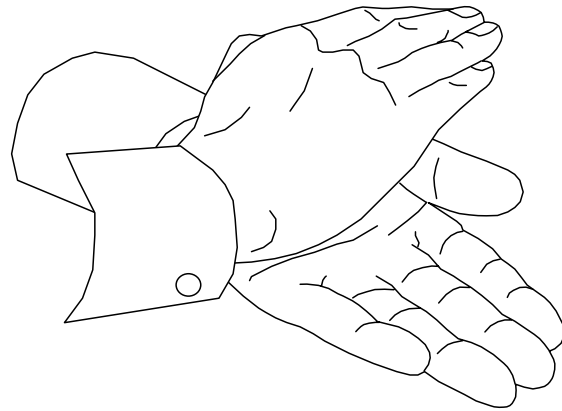
YWCA

The final celebration the YWCA project was held on April 3. The team got to inspect the net and pulley system they designed to store sports equipment near the ceiling of the gymnasium, and the storage benches they designed and helped build for heavier pieces. Team members included Joanna Caffrey, Joyce Chang, Colleen Coleman, Courtney Collins, Emily Hicks, Danielle Johnson, Kristen Koch, Amanda Kristoff, Avery Oldach, and Sofia Wronski. Staff members were Karen Rubino, Andrea Martin and Ananda Leininger. The YWCA contact (Cheryl Stacy) was on hand to let the team know how important the new storage system has been to the YWCA staff members. Also in attendance were four representatives of the American Association for University Women (AAUW), which is an organization that promotes higher education for women and who supported REACH '98. Articles appeared in the Telegram and Gazette and a YWCA publication— check out REACH's website to find them!

AIDS Project Worcester

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Wellness Room at AIDS Project Worcester (APW) was held on May 25. The team developed plans to divide in half an existing room at APW and to make it more sound resistant. In the process, they consulted with Prof. Peder Pedersen of the ECE Dept. to learn about the propagation of sound. Phil Grzyb Builders of Princeton, MA, erected and insulated the new wall according to the girls' specifications, and the girls assisted with blowing insulation into the existing walls, adding ceiling insulation, and with painting. Lee Evans, former technician in the ECE Dept., volunteered his time for some electrical work. Chrys coordinated the overall volunteer effort. The new brighter, more sound resistant room will benefit APW

Continued on Page 5



We need your new postal or email address!

If you move: Please take a moment to let Denise know. We'd love to keep in contact with everyone! Your parents take care of so much when you move... this is one grown-up task that is not too early to learn!

If you have a new email address or if your email address changes, please let Denise know so that we can update our email alias.

Continued from Page 5

clients by providing quieter, more private space for therapeutic massage, meditation, and raiche. Following are the team members: Caitlin Coleman, Holly Dame, Laurie Deitemeyer, Jessica DePalo, Keona Gavin, Christina Kach, Alissa Paquette, essica Piedrafite, Allison Webber, and Allison Winacoo. Staff members were Karen Rubino, Andrea Martin and Ananda Leininger. . An article appeared in the Boston Globe – check out REACH’s website to find it! ♦

AIDS Project Worcester
Saturday, April

Contact Information

REACH CoFounders:

Chrys Demetry
Mechanical Engineering Dept.
(508) 831-5195; cdemetry@wpi.edu

Denise Nicoletti
Electrical and Computer Engineering Dept.
(508) 831-5257; nicolett@wpi.edu
Both at
100 Institute Rd.
Worcester, MA 01609

REACH 99 Staff:
Denise Nicoletti, Director
Amy Adams, Assistant Director
aadams@wpi.edu

Check out our ever improving webpage:
<http://www.wpi.edu/~reach>

Send email to our alias:
campreach@wpi.edu

Looking Forward to '99

'99 Projects

Three projects have been identified for the '99 campers to sink their teeth into.

One is at the Edward Street Daycare Center -- which was a project site in '97. But don't worry, '97 campers – this project will not replace your excellent recycling room design! This time, campers will be designed a new playground space for toddlers.

Another is at the new daycare center about to open right next door to the WPI campus. Campers will be designing a science project resource center so that teachers can put together exciting projects for their students.

The third site is NOT a daycare center! It's at Princeton Electric Company, where they would like to develop a program to be able to replant the trees that they have to cut down for power lines. The girls will be designing the tree-growing project to be housed in an old greenhouse. Thanks to Kasey Grzyb's ('98) dad for finding us this project!

'99 Staff Members

Denise and Amy have been working hard to find staff members as excellent as the ones we've had in the past. And, you'll notice that some of the names are familiar from past years!

The '99 crew will be:

Middle school teachers: Jennifer Belanger (Auburn), Sarah Goff

(Worcester Academy), and Larry Isomaki (Florence Sawyer).

CITs: Sarah Chang, Jillian Crocker, Relida Kosova, Ananda Leininger (CIT '98), Andrea Martin (CIT '98), and Maggie Mostue.

RAs: Valerie Lewis, Monica Ortiz Serrano (RA '97), and Melanie Tetrault.

'99 Campers

We received nearly fifty applications for the thirty camper spots. Campers were selected (at random) from schools from all over Worcester County. THANKS to everyone who helped get the word out about the program – your work really paid off! Please come to the reunion so that you can meet them! ♦