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REACH

WPI Camp REACH
100 Institute Rd.
Worcester, MA 01609

June 2002

R e u n i o n

Summer Reunion

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

**FRIDAY, July 26th,
5-7:30pm**

and, it's **FREE!!!!**

- 5:00pm: Meet for dinner at Morgan Dining Commons
 - 6:00pm: Have fun with **Karaoke** in the Food Court on the ground floor of the Campus Center
 - 7:30pm: Pick-up time
- Morgan Dining Commons is located in Morgan Hall. The Campus Center is behind Alumni Gym. For directions, either visit WPI's webpage (see contact information at the end of this newsletter) or call the REACH phone number.

COME IF YOU LOVE TO SING, if you want to try to sing, or if you like to watch others sing! I'm sure that this will be a blast.

RSVP by calling 508-831-5648 or emailing nicolett@wpi.edu by July 23. We'll leave a message on the answering machine for any cancellations. **Please be specific about if you are coming for dinner, the activity, or both.**

Many, Many Thanks

The generous agencies that (as of the printing of this newsletter) have confirmed support for the '02 program (along with tuition!) are listed below. I've included their corporate websites so that you can check them out!

- AQUAL Clinical Research Services
- Fidelity Investments (<http://www.fidelity.com>)
- General Motors (<http://www.gm.com>)
- Verizon (<http://www.verizon.com>)
- Intel (<http://intel.com>)
- MassAcademy (<http://www.massacademy.org/>)
- TJX (<http://www.tjx.com/>)

and a generous WPI alumnus

And, REACH would not be possible without support from the WPI administration and community. ♦



Forming Great Relationships With Roommates

Most campers have their first experience with roommates during Camp REACH. For advise for new campers, former campers were asked what kinds of things should people do (or not do) to get along with their roommates. Here’s what they said. I deleted their names to provide some anonymity!

And, even former campers might learn something from this advice as they go on to new roommate relationships!

“When you first come to REACH try and make friends with everybody. Also don't make any judgments, (or badmouth anyone) until you have met them. I made that mistake....(cringe) Even if you see someone who seems totally out there or a drama queen you should really try to at least get acquainted. The more lunch table options there are the better!!!!”

“To get along with roommates- do things together (play cards, games etc.), try to bring up issues without yelling at each other such as room neatness and space, and tell each other about yourself- it helps to be able to know your roommate well. Things you should not do - act like the room is all yours, have negative attitude, be a hypocrite towards your roommates and always want your way.”

“From my experience as a former camper I think that to get along with your roommates and other campers is to be yourself, and be outgoing. When I first arrived at camp Reach I only knew two other girls there, and we were never close friends in school, so I decided to branch out my personality to other people, by talking with the other girls I got to meet very nice and interesting people. Those of whom I am still in touch with today after 3 years. I recommend to those of you who are shy, to try a different approach when meeting new people. If you don't get along with your roommates there is always that person across the hall who might turn out to be a great friend!”

“I think that people should be very open-minded when living with a room-mate. Try not to be too nice or too mean. And try to stay away from the person's pet peeves.”

“I suggest staying in your own personal space and don't clutter in others areas. Also don't touch anyone else's stuff, it's rude.”

“Have as much fun as possible! Try your best to get along with others, and make nice compliments, and not mean insults! Make the most of your stay, this a wonderful summer camp, and you only get to go here once in a lifetime! (unless you decide to go to college here!)”

“I would say the one thing to try and do is not argue with your roommates. It's easy to do and some people really like to argue but that is the one thing I would not do. Sometimes you have to let things roll off your back but it is a lot easier in the end. If two of the three roommates are fighting it makes it heck for the other so try to be nice. I would share things with your roommates and help them if they need it. One thing to do is not share your deep secrets with them. First of all they may laugh and make you feel bad or if you make them mad they will tell the whole camp and you will be sorry you ever said anything. I would say the number one thing is be nice.”

“First and foremost I would have to say that in order to get along with your roommate you cannot be judgmental or a hypocrite about their interests, their appearance, or their habits. Try not to be shy and break the ice, you and they must be feeling, by initiating conversation- it'll ease the tension in the room. Try to be friendly and open to any ideas the others might have about showers, times to get up or sleeping arrangements. If at the end of all this you can't get along with them just remember it's only two weeks and you're doing so much else during camp with other people so enjoy it as much as you can!”

“Roommates should share, don't take anything without asking, don't play your music loud when other people are trying to sleep, and don't lock your roommate out of your room.”

“I think everyone should give everyone a chance. Make sure not to pick out whom you will hang out and whom you won't hang out with until you have at least met and been with each camper for a while. Never judge someone by his or her appearance either. You're there just to have fun and grow as a community and work together as young women.”

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“One big thing you have to remember is that everyone is different and because of that you will probably argue and fight with your roommates. The best thing to do is to talk every problem over and then come to a conclusion that you can both agree with. Don't be super bossy or even super quiet. Being too bossy is rude and if you are too shy your roommates will take advantage of you. You need to be able to accept criticism but you should also be able to stand up for yourself. You shouldn't be afraid to stand up for yourself or approach your roommates if you have a problem. And a very good thing to remember is not to do anything on purpose just because your roommates don't like it. For example if your roommate doesn't like clothes on the floor, don't throw your dirty laundry on the ground just to make them upset. Be considerate and remember the golden rule "do unto others as you would have done to you.”◆

Winter '01 Reunion A Success

Last February, many of us got together to shake the winter blues and enjoying some swimming at the WPI pool. Everyone who came had a good time – especially Denise’s twin sons, who loved all of the attention! Check out our website for photos. The attendees included Aimee Hart and Crystal Tolman (from '97), Emily Hicks Caouette, Kristen Koch, Sarah Rich, and Clair Usher (from '98), Stephanie Bearce, Stephanie McPherson, and Julia Randall (from '00), and Alyshia Abbascia, Rosemary Benitez, Jody Borhani, Chelsea Drew, Nitya Durvasula, Jennifer Giard, Julianne Jensen, Stephanie Kerber, Hannah Kilcoyne, Lauren Lagace, Kristen Magnuson, Alison Medlar, Carissa Niro, Jillian O'Donnell, Katie Rich, Ariel Sands, Chelsea Sheehan, Colleen Stanton, Rebecca Taylor, Amy Zhou (all '01 campers) and Colleen McConnell (a '01 staff member). Check out the front page of this newsletter for the announcement of the '02 summer reunion.◆

MassAcademy Visit

7 REACH alumni visited the Massachusetts Academy for Mathematics and Science (MassAcademy) last spring. MassAcademy is a public high school for 11th and 12th graders. It is located very close to the WPI campus, and serves students with exceptional aptitude for math and science. I would like each and every REACH camper to consider attending MassAcademy – the '00 group will be invited to visit the MassAcademy next year! ◆



Here's Sarah Neel (from '97 program) on an archeological dig in Egypt. Wow!

A New REACH Staff Member

Our staffing has changed once again -- not including a fresh set of middle school teachers, residential assistants, and teaching assistants! Minakshi Guha (an undergraduate biochemistry major) now working as an office assistant for REACH a few hours each week. So, don't be surprised if you hear her name! ♦

Young Women Plan For Their Future

Former campers were asked about what their college plans are – check this out!

“Yes. I am planning to attend a four year college. I would like to major in a) education b) engineering c) theater.” -- Ariel Sands '01

“I am planning to apply to a 4-year college. I am probably going to major in history, law and literature. because I'm most interested in these things.) I also hope that these majors will help me find the job I want, to be a lawyer.” -- Amy Zhou '01

“I am planning on applying to a four-year college and get my major in either engineering or teaching. Totally different areas, but I have reasons for each. For engineering, I love science, and WPI brought many areas of interest to my attention. Before my Camp REACH experience I had never thought of engineering as what I might want to be when I grow up. I

then got very interested in chemical and genetic engineering. Although engineering is a field I am interested, teaching has become a high career choice for me as well. The reason I want to teach, is because I love kids, and I like the feeling that I get when I help someone with something they don't understand, and I have different ways to explain or get to an answer to a certain problem.” -- Kailian Bennett '99

“I am planning to a 4 year college in New York City. Right now, my two top choices are New York University and Hofstra University. I really want to major in Theater and or History.” -- Lily Goodman '99

“I am planning on attending a four year college, WPI is one of my top choices especially after attending camp REACH. I plan to major in either astronautical engineering, aeronautical engineering or computer engineering.” -- Amanda Kristoff '98

“I am planning to apply to a four year college. I want to get the best education possible. For my major I am hoping to major in Chemistry. I would also like to explore biomedical engineering. I wouldn't mind being an engineer but I think I would enjoy making things blow up better. Our tour of Amanda's lab got me interested in biomedical engineering.” -- Danielle Ferry '01

“I'm planning on attending a four year college and majoring in pre-medicine or pre-law.” -- Jessica Stevens, '99

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Why RSVP?

We ask campers and alumni to RSVP for all events. RSVP stands for *repondez, 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! ♦

Goddard Group Learns of Progress

The Goddard Memorial group attended their final celebration on July 9, 2001. Erin Day, Stephanie McPherson, Alicia Pepper, Jill Powers, Carolyn Purington, and Ally Treen all met with their sponsor (Barbara Berka) and learned that the fundraising efforts for the memorial are going very well – thanks in part to the design of the existing memorial concept that the girls did that was used during all fundraising activities. Thanks to all who participated! ♦

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“I am planning to attend a four-year college after high school. I am considering majors in Environmental Science (or Studies) and Policy. I would love for you to write me a recommendation letter for college!” -- Aimee Hart ‘97

“I am definitely considering going to a four year college. The majors I am interested in are some forms of engineering or something else related to science or math. I have looked up different forms of engineering for various school projects and have found some very interesting ones. I love science and math and thinking about a major along those lines.” -- Christina Kach ‘98

“I am planning on applying to a four year college. Within these four years I want to study business, music, and biology. It’s a weird mix I know, but with these classes and some others I can accomplish what I would like to do in life. I also would like to get my masters degree, probably in business. I want to own my own hotel and make it the best ever. Hopefully making much money. With the music part, I can really focus on what I love doing, and that is singing. With the biology, this will widen my knowledge and make me smarter. My first objective is to become a singer, but if that does not work out, I can always fall back and have my education to hold me up.” -- Jessica Meunier ‘99♦

Another Programs For Girls – How Does REACH Stack Up?

You may have already heard of other programs for middle or high school girls. If you haven’t already, please check

out our website (<http://www.wpi.edu/+reach>) and click on ‘other programs’. Below is a description of one program – how do you think it compares to your REACH experience? Let Denise know!

“Students to Address Community Problems Using Science in Bayer/National Science Foundation Awards Program”
The Bayer/National Science Foundation Awards program is a nationwide competition designed to combine science and technology with community problem-solving in a real-world setting. Through the program, sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grad students working in teams of three or four identify a community issue that concerns them and use science and technology to develop an innovative solution. The student teams will work with experts, conduct research, and try out their ideas, just like adult scientists. Teams are eligible for a one-week, expenses-paid trip to the Walt Disney World Resort for National Championship Week. Rewards for winning teams also include a total of \$36,000 in U.S. savings bonds, and the \$25,000 Columbus Foundation Community Grant, awarded each year to one of the ten finalist teams to help them bring their proposal to life in their community. Teams from public or private schools, home schools, and youth organizations are all eligible. For more info, please visit <http://www.nsf.gov/od/lpa/events/bayernsf/start.htm>. ♦

Young Engineers Make New Playground Design a Reality

Below are portions of a press release sent out for the recent celebration of a REACH project. Those that attended this celebration included Christine Aloia, Julie Ducharme, Alison MacFadden, Jackie Mooney, and Bethany Stolz – and many also brought along family members to help!

Professor Denise Nicoletti sees a parallel between the redesign of a Worcester playground, and the fertile minds of young girls exposed to science and engineering. Prof. Nicoletti has worked with teams of girls for the last six years showing them the excitement, challenge and creativity of learning about technology. In 2000, a team of 10 campers helped design a new playground at the corner of Austin and Newbury streets in Worcester. Specifically, they worked on ground covering and landscaping. On Saturday, May 11, the team members and their families will plant the flowers that they selected as part of a bigger neighborhood celebration. “These girls were part of a team called the Piedmont Street Crime Prevention Team,” said Prof. Nicoletti. “They really blossomed with this project and became very friendly with the neighborhood families who will be positively affected by this work.” The Camp REACH team will be working and celebrating from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, but the festivities will continue through mid-afternoon. ♦

Fun at REACH -- ON FILM

Videotapes were made of the '01 program. They've been sent out -- but if you did not receive one, please let Denise know! This includes '01 staff members.

WPI Honors During '02 Graduation

Each year, WPI decides who will be the graduation speaker and who will receive honorary doctoral degrees. This year was an exceptionally good one – especially if you're interested in matters related to women.

One of the honorary degree recipients was Sheila Tobias, has spent much of her distinguished career shedding new light on persistent myths about mathematics and science education. Through her groundbreaking research, she has uncovered biases in the way math and science are taught that often discourage talented individuals from pursuing studies in these fields - to their detriment, and to society's. While associate provost at Wesleyan (a previously all-male institution), she began her influential research on why women avoid mathematics. She concluded that math anxiety, a term she popularized, is the result of a lack of confidence, rather than a lack of ability.

The graduation speaker was Dean Kamen, whose inventions include a miniature infusion pump for diabetics and a portable kidney dialysis machine for home use. Kamen entered WPI with the Class of 1973, but left before completing his degree. His passion is finding ways to inspire American youth to pursue careers in science and engineering. To that end, he created a hands-on learning center called SEE (Science Enrichment Encounters) and a foundation called FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), which sponsors a national robotics competition. When Kamen was struck, one evening, by the sight of a young man in a wheelchair unable to get over a curb at a shopping mall, his mind would not let go of that injustice. Instead of changing the world, Kamen set out to rethink the chair. A decade later, The Independence(TM) 3000 IBOT(TM) Trans-porter is undergoing FDA clinical trials. During his speech, Kamen specifically referred to the need to encourage all members of our society, especially women and underrepresented minorities, to pursue careers in engineering.

For more information, check out <http://www.wpi.edu/News/Commence/> (the source for the material in this article) .♦



New Web Resource

Tufts University's School of Engineering, WEPAN, and SWE have unveiled a new website sponsored by the General Electric Fund. Check out <http://www.wieo.org> for a directory and resource of engineering programs specifically for girls, college level women, parents, K-12 teachers, guidance counselors, college faculty, industry, and project directors on both the local and national level. The site also includes an awards section for programs of the month, a discussion board, and an easy user interface to add an organization's programs to the site. ♦

Staff in place of '02 (6th!) Program

Each year, staff are recruited for the coming program. In January, advertisements are sent out for the middle school teacher, residential assistant (college-aged women), and teaching assistants (high school-aged women). Since the campers from '97 and '98 were eligible to become teaching assistants, far less advertising was needed – and wonderful people were found for these positions. Teachers are becoming more and more interested in the exposure they get to learn about the engineering design cycle, and this year's competition for this position was also fierce.

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The residential assistant position is advertised to WPI students – and many expressed an interest, and the finalists have great experience with girls this age and other camp programs.

The teachers this year are Judith Murphy (Burncoat Middle School), Theresa R. Babin (Nipmuc Regional Middle School), and Susan Desto (Dudley Middle School). The Residential Assistants (all WPI students): are Kyna Hu (a Computer Science and Theatre Technology major), Anna Foss (a Manufacturing Engineering Major) and Tanya M. Gilbreath (a Mechanical Engineering Major). The Teaching Assistants are Emily Hicks Caouette (from '98), Erin Dalianis (from '97), Jessica DePalo (from '98), Jenelle Pope (from '97 and a staff member in '01) Crystal Tolman (from '97 and a staff member in '01), Lindsey Woodhull, and Erin Young (from '97).

And – campers from '99 will be invited to apply to come back to WPI as a staff member next January! ♦

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. This allows you to get announcement of REACH reunion events as soon as they are known -- as well as other useful postings (about one per month). ♦

Engineers Helping People

Engineering is one career where you can help others. Former campers were asked about examples of how engineers have designed something that helped someone. Here's what they said:

"Engineers have designed wheel chairs to help the handicapped, and they have also helped design facilities that are handicap accessible (ramps, wider corridors etc.)" -- Amy Zhou '01

"I have seen engineers design many things to help people but I think they should be working on something that will help someone who has lost the use of a section of their body from brain damage to be able to use it again. Maybe that's asking a bit much but hey, anything can happen!" -- Amanda Kristoff '98

"My grandfather actually helped with the anthrax scare in D.C. He is a graduate of WPI. He helped design some of the machines to take care of anthrax. He is a very intelligent person and he is also fun to be around." -- Danielle Ferry '01

"Yes. My brother who just graduated from WPI finished his MQP Project a few months ago and his assignment was to design a covered water storage tank, which would serve residents in the Boston area. It's hard not to be able to think something not made by engineers- probably 99% of everything we encounter in our everyday lives was in some way brought to us by an engineer."-- Aimee Hart '97

"I know that there are thousands of engineers working extremely hard to make the future a better place. To improve anything and to create new helpful inventions that can maybe change world futures. Somethings like, automatic wheel chairs have given so much hope to elders or people who can no longer walk. This makes it much easier for them to get around, and from people I know, has made their life or being able to accomplish their life long dream a reality." -- Jessica Meunier '99. ♦

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.

Other News from our alumni:

'98 News:

"I've been running into a LOT of former campers! Not only from my class but other classes. I'm finding these girls in leadership positions often. I don't know if it's a coincidence or the bit of REACH they took with them is how to be a leader. We may not remember the little details of those few weeks but what we learned and what the experiences taught us will always be with us." -- Amanda Kristoff '98

'99 News:

"I just finished my freshman year at St. Peter-Marian. I made highest honors the first and second quarters and honors the third and fourth quarters. Out of my class of 206, I am ranked #1. At school, I was in the play Alice in Wonderland, on Student Council, in the National Junior Honor Society, in Mock Trial (which almost made it to the state semifinals), and on the track team. In April, I competed in the Massachusetts State Tae Kwon Do Championships and won a silver medal in board breaking and a bronze medal in forms (choreographed kicks and punches). I qualified to compete in the Tae Kwon Do Junior Olympics this June in Minneapolis, MN. This summer, I am working as a councilor at St. John's Camp, and then going on a cross country road trip to California with my family. If anyone wants to email or IM me, my email address is jangel1113@hotmail.com, and my AIM screen name is Jangel86." -- Jessica Stevens, '99

"This summer, before 10th grade, I'm attending the GEMS program at WPI. I liked REACH so much that I decided to apply to GEMS. I am really excited but I wish it was longer than 1 week! I plan to meet new people, just like at REACH, and strengthen my interest for engineering, math, and science. I also shadowed at Mass Academy upon receiving the touring information. It was a new educational experience." -- Samantha Wilner '99

"This summer I plan to write my own book. So far I have seventy-five pages to it. I know a publisher so when I'm done if it's good enough maybe it will get published. The book is about girls and what it feels like for a girl, both in the real world, and dealing with personal problems, and how to cope with them. Your camp has made me be able to hold my head up with confidence. Also it has given me strength to be on my own and stand up for what I believe in, whether it is something related to work, or having something to do with whether a woman can do "it" or not, and proving to people that women can do anything." -- Jessica Meunier '99 ♦

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Directions to campus:
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