

#### In this issue:

##### Pages 2 & 3:

Learning Community News

##### Pages 4&5:

Peer Mentoring News

##### Page 6:

WISE Ambassadors

##### Page 7:

Iowa EDGE, WISE in Space, WISE t-shirt quiz

##### Page 8:

Grad/Postdoc Workshops

##### Page 9:

Beam WISE Travel Grants

##### Page 10:

WCC meet Sally Mason, Lunch with Virginia Valian

##### Page 11:

Profiles of WISE Women

**Chris Brus**-WISE Director

**Gerene Denning**-Associate Director

**Andrea Beloy**-Assistant Director of Undergraduate Programs

**Angie Dickey**-Secretary

**Tess Barker**-Grad/Postdoc Programs Coordinator (GRA)

**Laura Lee**-Visual/Spatial Study Research Assistant (GRA)

**Kelsey Montross**-Mentoring Assistant

**Rita Shapiro**-Office Assistant

Dear Reader,

Whew! The year started off at a full run and hasn't slowed down yet. I hope you enjoy reading about all of our beginning-of-the-year activities in this edition of WISE News - your news source for breaking stories about the wonderful WISE Women on our campus. One of the most gratifying events of this fall was the announcement that the WISE Grad/Postdoc Professional Development Workshop series had been honored with a 2007 Catalyst Award for outstanding innovative and distinctive contributions to diversity at the University of Iowa!

Although our stated focus is on women in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), we are ever mindful of our responsibility to develop and support a population of women that encompasses much more than gender. Without the inclusion of women of color, women with disabilities, and women who love women in the WISE family, we would be guilty of the same kind of discrimination we seek so desperately to dismantle in our educational systems in particular and in society in general. The WISE Grad/Postdoc workshops have provided an excellent opportunity for us to develop and deliver needed programming to a broadly diverse population of women. Over 65% of WISE workshop participants during the 2006-07 academic year self-reported as students of color, foreign nationals, or differently-abled. That is a statistic we are extremely proud of. It has been and continues to be a great privilege for us to work with these competent, intelligent, and invested doctoral candidates and postdoctoral fellows, just as it is with our undergraduate students. In fact, any award given to WISE since its inception in the Fall of 1994, is in great part owing to their unflagging commitment to excellence as well as to their tenacity in the face of persistent barriers to their success.

I thank you all for your trust in us. We intend to keep earning it day by day -Chris



**Chris Brus receiving Catalyst Award from Jennifer Modestu**



#### Ever notice the WISE Backpack Buttons?

All first-year WISE Women in the Peer Mentoring Program, the Learning Community, and the WISE Ambassadors are given a WISE button to put on their backpacks. WHY, you ask? Because we have found it an efficient, effective, and inexpensive way for our students to identify other WISE Women in their very large and often impersonal first-year science classes. They see the button and they are much more likely to approach a person they don't know to ask for assistance or to organize a study group. Sometimes the most effective interventions are simple . . .

# WISE

## Learning Community

### Who we are and what we do . . . . .

The Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Learning Community provides a supportive living-learning environment for first-, second-, and third-year women majoring in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines. The WISE LC, first offered for the 1996-97 school year, is the oldest academic learning community on campus. Over the life of the WISE Learning Community, WISE has provided academic and social support to:

- 498 first-year women in STEM (40-50% from the College of Engineering, depending on year)
- 102 second-year women in STEM, since we started retaining upper-level students in 2003-04



### Learning Community Orientation was a HIT!

Learning Community Orientation was a HIT! WISE Learning Community Women jumped in with both feet this year! Starting with the new summer survey and initiation of contact between 'Big Buddies' (returning LC Women) and their 'Little Buddies' (in-coming first-years) prior to the start of school, we were all ready and waiting for our newbies by the time move-in day occurred. LC folders and t-shirt were distributed prior to the LC Orientation on August 30th, which was a first!

As usual, the annual LC Orientation, Scavenger Hunt, and Ice Cream Sundae Bar were a huge success. A big thank you to Molly Whaley, Burge Food Service, for the fantastic picnic food and to Gerene Denning, Associate Director of WISE, for the Whitey's ice cream and her ability to scoop ice cream faster than anyone else I know!

Scavenger Hunt participants went about their business and had a great time finding major support offices on campus as well as learning the locations of important non-campus establishments, like the Dairy Queen. All this and prizes too!

Although having orientation on a weeknight this year made for a very long day, everyone was of good cheer and learned what they were supposed to. What else can you ask for?

#### A big Thank You to First-Semester WISE Tutors!

Amanda DeHoedt	Physics/Chemistry
Martha Ha	Chemistry
Angela Horan	Chemistry
Kelli Krautman	Math for the Bio Sciences
Becca Sparrow	Chemistry/Biology
Patricia Pietrusiewicz	Animal Biology
Elizabeth Theobald	Engineering Math/EPST
Emily Rice	Engineering Math/EPST

### WISE-eligible Undergraduate Majors

Actuarial Science  
 Applied Physics  
 Astronomy  
 Athletic Training  
 Biochemistry  
 Biology  
 Chemistry  
 Chiropractic (pre-)  
 Clinical Laboratory Science  
 Computer Science  
 Dentistry (pre-)  
 Engineering  
     Biomedical  
     Chemical and Biochemical  
     Civil and Environmental  
     Electrical and Computing  
     Industrial  
     Mechanical  
     Undeclared  
 Environmental Sciences  
 Geoscience  
 Health and Sport Studies  
 Integrative Physiology  
 Mathematics  
 Medicine (pre-)  
 Microbiology  
 Mortuary Science (pre-)  
 Nuclear Med. Technology (pre-)  
 Nursing  
 Optometry (pre-)  
 Pharmacy  
 Physical Therapy (pre-)  
 Physician Assistant (pre-)  
 Physics  
 Podiatric Medicine (pre-)  
 Psychology  
 Radiation Sciences (pre-)  
 Science Education  
 Speech and Hearing Science  
 Statistics  
 Veterinary Medicine (pre-)



## Introducing the 2007-2008 WISE RA's

My name is Julie Brasefield and I'm a second year RA returning to the WISE LC. I'm a senior and I hope to graduate in May with a B.S. in Applied Physics.

Upon graduation, I plan to attend graduate school as either a dental student or working towards my Masters in Education. I'm looking forward to getting to know the new faces and reunite with the returnees. Let's have a fabulous year!



My name is Crystal Moody and I will be a 1st year WISE RA this fall although I've been living in the WISE community since my freshman year! I'm a junior majoring in Science Education. My future goals include becoming a high school biology teacher and a coach.

I am really looking forward to having a great time with all of you this year. It's going to be a BLAST!



New LC Women getting to know each other



Shameika enjoying the festivities



Three 'Old' LC Women attend "Homecoming"

## Learning Community "Homecoming" at Buffalo WildWings

On Sunday, September 23rd, current LC Women had the opportunity to meet some of their 'older LC sisters' at the first annual WISE LC Homecoming event. All I can say is, Why didn't we think of this before? Talk about expanding your UI family!

When the smoke cleared, the 64 attendees had consumed 400 wings and mounds of potato wedges. Yes, food was the glue we used to encourage community-building among current and former LC women at this event. Hopefully we didn't inadvertently encourage a pattern of overeating in our student as well. From what I see, students struggle to make healthy decisions about portion size and choice of foods from the day they set foot on campus and are introduced to the current concept of campus food service.

Developing the skills to personally control what you eat and how much you eat on a day-to-day basis is something most of us struggle with throughout life, so I suggest we start providing students with the information they need to make healthy choices within an environment of abundance as early as summer orientation.

The **WISE Learning Community (LC) Outreach Program** provides an opportunity for first-year LC women to stay connected to their home schools (K-12) and extend their college experiences by 'giving back'. They develop and deliver a presentation to high school students; sharing their knowledge of the college transition, acting as role-models for younger women and men, and encouraging them to stay in math and science throughout high school to keep their educational and career options open. Successful university students who are known to younger students and come from the same geographic background are very powerful role-models for those coming up behind them.

To see an example of the fine work the LC Women have done in the past, visit the WISE website.

WISE Website –  
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~wise>

Remember to visit the WISE website to learn more about the programs and services offered through our office! Each month we profile a new student or staff/faculty member and update our 'news' section on the home page, so Check It Out to get the latest info and to learn about the amazing women associated with WISE!



## UNDERGRADUATE PEER MENTORING PROGRAM

### WISE Undergraduate Peer Mentoring Program

*The oldest, continuously-offered mentoring program  
at the University of Iowa (pilot, spring 1995)*

#### Measures of program success:

- Retention of first-year participants in STEM majors through their fourth-year at the UI is significantly higher than the national average.
- In 2007-08:
  - 63% of current mentors (volunteer) were also WISE mentees during their first-year at the UI.
  - 37% of current mentors are serving for a second, third, or fourth year.



## 2007-08 Mentoring Program News

The 13th year of the WISE Undergraduate Peer Mentoring Program is underway! With an increase of 28 students from the 06-07 academic year (we have 208 students!), the Mentoring Program continues to connect first-year students with upper-level mentors in the various science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines at the U of Iowa.

The Peer Mentoring Program aims to increase the retention of women majoring in STEM fields and to strengthen the pipeline from college to career, by providing academic and social support programming. The mentoring program utilizes workshops and one-on-one meetings to assist first-year students in their transition to college and in navigating their academic program. Under the guidance of their mentors, students learn about campus and community organizations, build social and academic networks of friends/resources, and connect with companies/organizations to begin networking and learning about STEM careers. Most importantly, mentors share their experiences and create a safe environment for mentees to develop personally, academically, and professionally.

The 07-08 year officially began during the second week of classes with first-year students meeting their mentors and others at an orientation supper in the IMU Richey Ballroom. Two workshops were held in October - Health & Wellness (HealthIowa) and Personal Safety (UI Police).

In November we offered two evenings of panel discussions, "Finding Research, Internship, Study Abroad, and Volunteer Opportunities."

Besides workshops, the mentors and mentees have been meeting individually and in groups to discuss various college and personal topics of their own choosing. We've had high attendance

for all activities, and we're looking forward to a successful Spring term as well!



### Tracking the Retention of Mentees in STEM Majors

Each Spring term, WISE contacts former mentees to inquire about their current majors. From this data collection, we learn which percentage of students remain in their initially-declared major, switch to a different STEM major, or leave the STEM fields completely. Below is a chart that illustrates our findings since the 1999-2000 year of mentees.

Mentee Year (First-year Students)	Number of WISE Mentees	Retained in STEM as...		
		Soph	Juniors	Seniors
2006-07	100% (n=90)			
2005-06	100% (n=95)	85%		
2004-05	100% (n=106)	76%	70%	
2003-04	100% (n=97)	70%	71%	60%
2002-03	100% (n=121)	79%	75%	68%
2001-02	100% (n=99)	75%	72%	69%
2000-01	100% (n=85)	78%	78%	64%
1999-2000	100% (n=73)	84%	74%	71%

Distribution of Majors for Mentees in the  
WISE Peer Mentoring Program (n=104)

Sciences	Number	Percent
Athletic Training	1	1%
Biochemistry	1	1.3%
Biology/Biological sciences	16	20.8%
Chemistry	1	1.3%
Integrative Physiology	4	5.2%
Unknown	1	1.3%
Nursing	17	22.1%
Pharmacy	14	18.2%
Physical Science	1	1.3%
Physics & Astronomy	3	3.9%
Pre-Dentistry	2	2.6%
Pre-Med	10	13.0%
Pre-Radiation Science	1	1.3%
Psychology	3	3.9%
Speech & Hearing Science	2	2.6%
Total Science	77	100%
Engineering	Number	Percent
Biomedical Engineering	16	59.3%
Chemical Engineering	3	11.1%
Electrical Engineering	2	7.4%
General Engineering	6	22.2%
Total engineering	27	100%

Thank you to our eight

### WISE Mentoring Corporate Contributors

Your continued support and involvement is sincerely appreciated by the WISE program and the many students who benefit from your generosity.

Accenture  
Alcoa, Inc.  
Alliant Energy Foundation  
The Caterpillar Foundation  
John Deere Foundation  
Emerson Process Management – Fisher Division  
Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.  
Rockwell Collins



## Why Join the WISE Mentoring Program?

“This program seems like a great way to meet other young women who are interested in science.”

“By having a mentor who is also pre-med, I have someone to ask about classes, college life, and preparing for grad school. It sure is nice to have a friend at UI before classes even begin.”

“I chose to participate in the WISE program so I could have the opportunity to talk to other women in the engineering program. I wanted to be able to talk to older students about their experiences, as well as talk to peers for help.”

“I had a great time last year as a mentee. I wanted to be able to give another girl the experience I had last year. I strongly support women in science and want to help and encourage the younger girls.”

“I really like the community that we are building! Very fun!”

“Thank you for everything you do! I think this is a great program and I am glad to be a part of it!”



Science, math, AND pumpkin-carving skills!

Pumpkin-carving,  
WISE-Wide Activity



# WISE

# AMBASSADORS



## Who are the Ambassadors?

The Ambassadors are a team of both undergraduate and graduate students in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields who organize and participate in outreach, leadership, and career development experiences.

The program is run and kept alive by the enthusiasm and ideas of the Ambassadors, and the WISE office aids their efforts by providing an annual budget, resources, and support.

The WISE Ambassadors program is open to all students, and new participants are always welcome.

View the website at <http://www.uiowa.edu/~wise> and contact [wise@uiowa.edu](mailto:wise@uiowa.edu) to be added to the Ambassadors mailing list!

## WISE Ambassadors Fall Retreat

Eleven WISE Ambassadors attended a fall retreat at Upper City Park on Sunday, September 9. We sure lucked out with such a beautiful day, and our facilitators, Touch the Earth (UI Rec Services), did an amazing job leading the participants through fun and funny team-building activities. All-in-all, the afternoon was a great success for building a strong group of leaders who will form a solid, core structure for the Ambassadors. Now we're ready to power through 2007-08 with a ton of energy, excitement, and ideas!

The WISE Ambassadors held their first meeting of the year on Sunday, September 9, in Upper City Park. Seventeen women attended. The meeting focused primarily on getting to know each other; making connections; learning about the WISE Ambassadors and what they do; and brainstorming ideas for the year. We had a delicious spread of sandwiches from Jimmy John's, which energized everyone for some getting-to-know-you activities on a beautiful, sunny day.

The officers for the 2007-08 year are:

**President** – Sarah Minner

**Vice President/Treasurer** – Cori Thompson

**Secretary** – Kendra Meyer

**Public Relations** – Sara Schmeckpeper

**Historians** – Amanda Murphy and Jennifer Yu



Volunteering at the WRAC Spaghetti Feed

## Girl Scout Badge Day – December 1

On Saturday, December 1, the Ambassadors hosted approximately 70 Girl Scouts grades 4-6 in the IMU for an afternoon of educational science presentations and fun, hands-on activities. Check out the next WISE Newsletter for pictures and a recap of the event!



## General WISE News

This year's WISE t-shirt design is a grid of fifteen faces of accomplished women scientists of the past, with one additional space reserved for the picture of any of the young women in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) who aspire to take their place among those esteemed faces in the future.

Question is: *Does anyone know who these women are and what their contributions to our overall body of scientific knowledge might be?* We admit that we did not do too well, so we have decided to let you test your own knowledge and secondarily to provide you with an opportunity to learn more about the contributions these women made to science.

**GOOD LUCK!**

Name and contribution of each woman listed on page 10.

(This graphic and publication stems from a project undertaken at the San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC) in 1997. Graphic designer is Gail W. Bamber. Writers are Merry Maisel and Laura Smart.)

### WISE Women in Science and Engineering



**The Future**



**President Mason speaking with  
Iowa EDGE students**

### **A Great Year for the Iowa EDGE!**

The Iowa Edge is a one-week extended orientation for 50 incoming students of color and first generation college students sponsored by the Kevin & Donna Gruneich Charitable Foundation. WISE Director, Chris Brus, has served on the Iowa Edge program planning committee for the past two years with many other committed members from across campus.

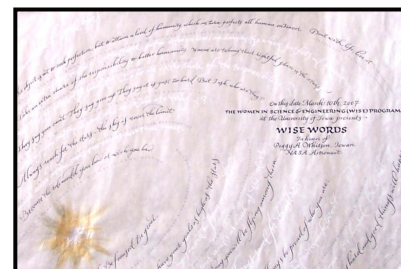
This year's program hosted many great speakers and events including a breakfast with President Sally Mason, a fantastic way for the Iowa Edge students to start their college careers at the UI and a wonderful opportunity for President Mason to meet some of the outstanding students that come to the UI through the Iowa Edge program.

WISE is also very proud to have 3 Iowa Edge students in our Learning Community and Peer Mentoring Program for this academic year. They are Michelle Stolzoff, Brittany Vesey, and Dumayi Gutierrez.

### **Update on the 'WISE in Space' project**

Thanks to the generosity of Mt. Ayr, Iowa native and NASA Astronaut Peggy Whitson, a little piece of WISE is now traveling through space! We are honored to be one of only three Iowa entities that have artifacts accompanying Peggy on her current mission. We didn't realize until this summer that Peggy is actually the Commander of this mission! What an amazing accomplishment.

Last month we received a communication from NASA informing us that we had been cleared to become one of Peggy's 'family and friends' network which allows us to access her personal web communications and to see many activities that are not available for public viewing. We hope to share these experiences with our WISE Women (especially those in Physics and Astronomy) to give them a window into the life of a working NASA astronaut.



**WISE artifact currently in space with  
Peggy Whitson**



# Grad/Post-Doc News

## WISE Enters 4th Year of Grad/Postdoc Workshop Series

*Catalyst Award Winner!*

*We are very proud that our Graduate/Postdoc Professional Development Workshop Series is now a Catalyst Award winner! As we enter our fourth year, we pledge to continue the WISE tradition of developing programs that invite, support, and sustain diversity.*

The 2007–2008 workshop series will build on its previous success by again offering its most effective workshops, but WISE also continually strives to meet the changing needs of our students by developing new programs and revising existing programs. Many new program topics and suggestions for increasing the effectiveness of existing programs come from the comments of past participants and workshop facilitators.

This fall we introduced a new workshop on writing a successful grant proposal, a companion to one offered last spring on responding to reviewer comments. Both workshops were facilitated by Deborah Dawson.

We also plan to offer two new programs this spring. The first will provide tips on the most efficient methods for accessing information through the internet, thanks to UI Library staff Lisa McDaniels and Kathy Magarrell. The second new program, a revision of a previously offered one, provides strategies and skill-building exercises for increasing effective networking at conference events, receptions, business dinners, etc. Suggestions for other workshops?



For more information on the WISE Grad/Postdoc Workshop Series, please visit our website [www.uiowa.edu/~wise](http://www.uiowa.edu/~wise) and click on the Grad/Post Doc link or contact Tess Barker at: [maria-barker@uiowa.edu](mailto:maria-barker@uiowa.edu).



### FALL 2007 Workshops

#### Developing a Teaching Philosophy and an Inclusive Classroom in the Sciences & Engineering

This workshop provides an overview of the essential content of a teaching philosophy as well as specific strategies for developing one. The workshop will also focus on techniques for creating an inclusive classroom environment.

Facilitators: Carolyn Colvin, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & Graduate Programs, College of Education Doty Simpson-Taylor, Director, Diversity Resources, Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity

#### Writing a Successful Research Grant Proposal

This workshop provides an overview of the process required to complete a grant proposal, from identification of appropriate funding sources to submission for review.

Facilitator: Dr. Deborah Dawson, Director of Biostatistics, College of Dentistry; Professor, Preventive and Community Dentistry, and Biostatistics

#### Developing a Research Statement in the Sciences

This workshop provides an overview of the essential content of the research statement as well as specific strategies for developing one. In the follow-up session, research statements developed by the participants will be critiqued.

Facilitators: Cinda Coggins Mosher – Lecturer, Department of Rhetoric, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Ben Mosher – MFA Grant Writer and Tate High School English Teacher

### SPRING 2008 Workshops (TENTATIVE)

#### Strategies for More Efficient and Effective Literature Searches

As quickly as knowledge and technology changes, so, too, does the way researchers can access it. This workshop will provide an overview of new technologies to help with literature review searches for dissertations and scholarly journals.

Facilitators: Lisa McDaniels – Head Librarian, Mathematics Sciences Library, Kathy Magarrell – Head Librarian, Reference and Library Instruction

#### Effectively Responding to Reviewer Comments

This workshop is designed to assist you in successfully addressing issues arising from the review of grant proposal submissions. Response to review of journal submissions will also be discussed.

Facilitators: Dr. Deborah Dawson – Director of Biostatistics, College of Dentistry; Professor, Preventive and Community Dentistry, and Biostatistics

#### Social Networking and Etiquette

Receptions, cocktail parties, and interview dinners are increasingly part of the process of finding an academic position and secondarily, keeping it. This workshop will help participants gain the skills and confidence necessary to network effectively in these types of professional-social situations. The workshop will end with participants being able to test their skills in a real reception setting.

Facilitators: To be Announced





## Grad/Post-Doc News

### WISE Selects the Fall 2007 Dr. Eunice Beam WISE Travel Grant Recipients

Erin Heiden, a doctoral student in the College of Public Health, delivered an oral presentation entitled, National Hospitalizations for Injuries Among a Cohort of Individuals with Pre-Existing Spinal Cord Injury, at the 2007 National Injury & Violence Prevention Research Conference in Columbus, Ohio, October 9-11, 2007.



Jitka Stehnova of the Czech Republic is a mathematics doctoral student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Jitka will deliver an oral presentation at the Joint Mathematics Meeting in San Diego, California, on January 6-9, 2008. Her presentation is titled Theta Correspondence for Unitary Groups in Two Variables.



Qi Mo of China delivered an oral presentation entitled The Soft Shadow Occlusion Camera at the 2007 Pacific Graphics Conference in Maui, Hawaii October 29 – November 2, 2007. Qi is a doctoral student in the Computer Science program of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.



### Dr. Eunice Schuytema Beam WISE Travel Grant Program

The Dr. Eunice Beam WISE Travel Grant program awards three \$250 grants per semester to doctoral students who are presenting their work at meetings, symposia, conferences, or other professional or academic gatherings.

Submission deadlines: October 15 for the Fall funding cycle; February 15 for the Spring funding cycle.  
To be eligible for a WISE Travel Grant, an applicant must:

- Be a female doctoral student at the University of Iowa (Ph.D. track) in one of the science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) departments eligible for funding (list available on the WISE website).
- Have been notified of your acceptance to give an oral presentation of 10 minutes or longer, at a national or international conference/symposium, chosen competitively. Please note: Poster presentations are not eligible.
- Provide documentation from conference organizers showing that your paper has been chosen for presentation. If possible, also provide us with a copy of the conference program, highlighting your presentation.
- Be making or have made your presentation within the same fiscal year the grant will be given (July 1st - June 30th).
- Submit a short explanation of the significance of this conference/symposium to your career goals.

Visit the WISE website for more information and to access an application form.

The Dr. Eunice Schuytema Beam WISE Travel Grant Program, endowed in 2001, has provided travel support for 72 doctoral students in the Colleges of Engineering, Liberal Arts & Sciences, Public Health, Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing, Education, and the Graduate College.



## General News

### WCC meets with UI President Sally Mason

For those of you not familiar with the Women's Campus Coalition (WCC), it is a group made up of four constituent groups on campus whose primary missions are to advocate for women in some manner: CSW, RVAP, WRAC, and WISE (see full names below).

On August 28th, 2007, the four WCC directors/chairs conducted a 'briefing' with President Sally Mason on gender-related activities/initiatives currently taking place within our individual units and across campus. Additionally, we put forward three areas of concern that were felt to be critically important to get on President Mason's agenda for this academic year based on their significant impact on women's full participation at the UI and in the broader community. They were:

- Creating and maintaining a respectful community, including a discussion specific to safety issues for women on campus and in the Iowa City area;
- Integrating gender unit representatives into power and decision-making structures at the UI, including representation on academic-based committees where decisions are made and policies are developed that may have a differential impact on women;
- Providing sustainable funding for base-line programs and services offered through WCC units that support the UI Strategic Plan, including the development of benchmarks to better define the contributions made by WCC units to recruitment and retention of students across academic colleges.

We thank President Mason for her willingness to meet with us in an open and honest exchange of ideas so early in her tenure at the UI. We look forward to a productive working relationship with her in the future.

WCC constituent groups include:

Council on the Status of Women (CSW) – 2007-08 Chair, Diana Harris, <http://www.uiowa.edu/~csw>

Rape Victim Advocacy Program (RVAP) – Executive Director, Karla Miller, <http://www.rvap.org>

Women's Resource and Action Center (WRAC) – Director, Monique DiCarlo, <http://www.uiowa.edu/~wrac>

Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) – Director, Chris Brus, <http://www.uiowa.edu/~wise>

### Lunch with Virginia Valian

WISE staff and board members had the great privilege of attending lunch with renowned psychologist and author Virginia Valian on Friday, September 21st, thanks to the generosity of the UI College of Medicine who sponsored her visit to campus. Dr. Valian's acclaimed book, "Why So Slow" (1998, MIT Press) - written to look critically at why the numbers of women reaching tenure and upper-level administrative posts in higher education have not kept pace with the numbers of women coming through our educational system - provides a data-driven, cross-disciplinary context in which to examine the processes that have impeded the advancement of women in academe. She also looks at supports and interventions that have and have not been effective in ameliorating the effects of chilly climate for women, in STEM disciplines.



**Virginia Valian and Chris Brus enjoying lunch and a lively discussion.**

If you are interested in reading Dr. Valian's book or other books on this or related topics, take a few minutes to come and peruse the WISE Resource Library in 423 Gilmore Hall (by appointment).

Our Resource Library has over 550 books, reports, periodicals, and journals as well as an ever-growing media library (CD's, VHS tapes and DVD's) of which over 75% are not available in any other University of Iowa Library.

Name and contribution of the women pictured on page 7 (reading left to right and starting with the top row)

- 1) Rosalind Elsie Franklin (1920-1958) Pioneer Molecular Biologist
- 2) Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin (1910-1994) A Founder of Protein Crystallography
- 3) Admiral Grace Murray Hopper (1906-1992) Pioneer Computer Scientist
- 4) Maria Goeppert-Mayer (1906-1972) Nobel in Physics
- 5) Helen Sawyer Hogg (1905-1993) A Gift of Stars
- 6) Rózsa Péter (1905-1977) Founder of Recursive Function Theory
- 7) Roger Arliner Young (1899-1964) Lifelong Struggle of a Zoologist
- 8) Space reserved for the Next Generation of WISE Women

- 9) Emmy Noether (1882-1935) Creative Mathematical Genius
  - 10) Lise Meitner (1878-1968) A Battle for Ultimate Truth
  - 11) Lillian Moller Gilbreth (1878-1972) Mother of Modern Management
  - 12) Annie Jump Cannon (1863-1941) Theorist of Star Spectra
  - 13) Rosa Smith Eigenmann (1858-1947) Ichthyologist
  - 14) Ada Byron, Countess of Lovelace (1815-1852) Founder of Scientific Computing
  - 15) Mary Anning (1799-1847) Finder of Fossils
  - 16) Sophie Germain (1776-1831) Revolutionary Mathematician
- In-depth biographies at: <http://www.sdsc.edu/ScienceWomen/GWIS.pdf>



## Profiles of WISE Women

From the WISE monthly web profiles  
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~wise>

Cornelia Lang  
 Assistant Professor  
 Department of Physics & Astronomy



*Hometown:* Grand Forks, ND

*Earned degrees:*

- BS (Physics and Astronomy), Vassar College
- PhD (Astronomy), University of California, Los Angeles

*Research Interests:* I am interested in understanding the astrophysics of the very central regions of our Milky Way galaxy. In particular, I am interested in the interactions between the stars and gas in this region and the magnetic field. Ultimately I want to try to understand our Galactic Center in the context of other nearby galactic centers.

*Who/what motivated you to study science?* Without really knowing it, my father, who is a biologist (studying crocodiles, alligators, turtles), was the motivator in getting me interested in science. I grew up with it and I learned about the hard work and rewards involved with research.

*Most rewarding part of your career:* The interactions I have with my colleagues, collaborators and students are the best parts of my job. Many people think that scientists work in isolation and that simply isn't true. I am continually amazed by the degree to which I communicate what I am doing (through teaching and at conferences) and get valuable feedback from other scientists and students alike. It's a real joy!

*Words from a WISE woman:* Don't forget to become well-rounded as a person! This is true at many levels: as a student, don't forget to take courses outside of science: history, politics, classical studies, social sciences, music, art and other scientific disciplines. And after college, don't forget to take time out for activities that you enjoy - hobbies, sports, family, travel. This brings vitality back to your scientific work!



Lauren Wilson  
 UI Alumna, May 2007  
 B.S. - Engineering

*Hometown:* Naperville, IL

*Employment:* CIVCO Medical Solutions, Kalona, IA

*Position:* Design Engineer - I use computer design programs such as Pro-Engineer to design and develop products for the medical industry, starting at initial development through manufacturing, testing, FDA approval, and release.

*WISE Involvement:* WISE Mentee, WISE Mentor (3 years)  
 How I stay connected to the U of Iowa: I am a member of the Society of Women Engineers. I serve as the liaison between students and professionals. I am on campus quite a bit and try to attend as many of the student section activities as I can.

*Words from a WISE Woman:* Find something that interests you and go after it, no matter the obstacles. I have always thought that something you have to fight to achieve makes it that much more important in the end.

Disha Dayal - 5th Year PhD Student  
 Radiation Oncology



*Hometown:* Delhi, India

*Earned degrees:*

- MS (Biotechnology): Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, India
- BS (Chemistry): St Stephen's College, Delhi, India

*Career interests:* Cancer biology, oxidative stress, mitochondrial functions, radiation-induced genomic instability

*WISE Involvement:* Dr. Eunice Beam WISE Travel Grant Awardee

*Reason for pursuing a PhD:* Researching a cure for a disease is scientifically challenging, but at the same time, emotionally very gratifying. Having seen cancer patients very closely in my family, I felt this could be my small contribution towards fighting this terrible disease.

*Words from a WISE Woman:* Never be scared to stand up for what you believe is right, irrespective of what the ultimate result might be.



Kendra Meyer  
 Senior Biomedical Engineering  
 Minors: Mathematics, Spanish

*Hometown:* Ankeny, IA

*Career interests:* Business consulting, field engineering

*WISE Involvement:* Ambassadors Secretary, Peer Mentor (3 years), former WISE Mentee and Learning Community member, WISE Party Planner

*Favorite part about college:* Being able to take the opportunity to do the things that I want to do.

*Favorite part about Iowa City:* Having a great hospital be a part of our community and college, and being able to walk around our beautiful campus.

*Words from a WISE Woman:* Be sure to take time to find out who you are and what your dreams are. Then follow them!

Not getting your own copy?

Are you moving?

Contact us at: wise@uiowa.edu

Check appropriate boxes below

- ☐ Add my name to your mailing list
- ☐ Change my address
- ☐ Remove my name from your mailing list

- ☐ University of Iowa Faculty
- ☐ University of Iowa Staff
- ☐ University of Iowa Graduate Student
- ☐ University of Iowa Undergraduate Student
- ☐ Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Department/Major \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Happy Winter Break from The Three  
WISE Women!



Return by U.S. Mail or  
Campus Mail to:  
WISE Program  
420 Gilmore Hall  
The University of Iowa  
Iowa City, IA 52242-1320



indicia here

### **Women in Science & Engineering**

420 Gilmore Hall  
The University of Iowa  
Iowa City, IA 52242-1320  
Phone 319-335-3530  
Fax 319-353-2458  
wise@uiowa.edu  
www.uiowa.edu/~wise