Message from the WISE Director

Welcome to the first edition of the WISE Newsletter! We plan to include information about the semester’s WISE events - what’s planned, where it will be held, as well as opportunities for networking within and outside the university. We also want to use the newsletter to applaud the accomplishments of you and your peers in WISE, and to share experiences of WISE members with each other.

Why are we doing this? The central goal of the WISE program is to try and build a sense of community that will support and sustain you as you pursue your goals in fields that have not traditionally welcomed women. We want you to realize that you are not peculiar or "out-of-step," that there are others who share your interests, who are excited by the same things you are. We hope you will come to see WISE as a big part of your support group, where you feel you are among friends and can relax and "be yourself." The events of the past weeks have shown us that when crises occur, it is our connection to others that sees us through. We hope that this newsletter will be one more way that we can help you build those connections.

We would also like to welcome our new College Coordinator Meredith Knight and our new PreCollege Coordinator Sharon Pavulaan. Meredith and Sharon have replaced Lois Rowman who has gone on to law school. We wish her all the best.

Diamond Awards

On Wednesday, October 10th, the Women in Technology Forum will be held at the Long Island Technology Center in Great River, NY. The Women in Technology Forum’s Diamond Awards event is the first event honoring Long Island women for their achievements in technology. Awards will be given to a Long Island company for promoting women to top technology management positions, a female professional for her achievements in technology and two students for their educational commitments to technology. One of the two scholarships will be given to Diana David, a member of the WISE Program.

“We hope to make this an annual event” says Pamela Sugihara, a board member for both organizations. “We want to focus on the achievements of women in business, and in education.”

Ms. Sugihara introduced the idea of a joint event between the Long Island Center for Business and Professional Women and the Long Island Software and Technology Network. “The mission of this alliance between the two organizations is to promote and support educational and career opportunities for women in technology and the related fields in Long Island.”

In addition to awards, the Forum will provide an opportunity for students to network with technology businesses who will attend the breakfast event.

“This is an opportunity for women to come and learn about education and career opportunities on Long Island. The forum will give women the ability to see opportunities here in local community. Part of the education process is learning about the importance of networking.” Comments Pamela Sugihara “You’re never too young to learn where to go for this information.”

The first half hour of the event will be registration and will give participants a chance to visit the exhibitor booths and network among the companies. Computer Associates, Salomon Smith Barney, Spider, and Galt are event sponsors, and will have booths set up during that time. The presidents of the Long Island Center and LISTnet will give opening remarks, and Shirley Strum Kenny will give a keynote speech.

Students, women returning to the workforce, and women professionals are encouraged to attend. Attendance is free due to the generosity of the sponsors. They ask that you RSVP on the list net web site; http://www.listnet.org/diamond_award_reg.cfm so they will know how much food to order. Students interested in a ride to the event should contact the WISE office at projectwise@notes.cc.sunysb.edu.
**Women in Technology: Young Women at the Crossroads**

*By Meredith Knight*

All members of the university community are invited to a panel discussion on Women in Technological Fields at **7pm on Wednesday October 17th in the SAC Auditorium.** The series is hosted by the WISE Program and sponsored by Citigroup Corporate and Investment Bank, and features speakers from Citigroup Corporation.

“We believe it is important to introduce Stony Brook students to women executives who hold senior roles in technology and finance at Citigroup,” explains Peter Remsch, the Director of Client Services Technology at Citigroup. “We want to show the opportunities that await women in technical fields.” Mary Ekmalian, the director of Electronic Banking Systems Development at Citigroup, and Stacey Miller, the Senior Vice President of International Stock Plans at Citigroup will speak at the event. Both women have risen through the ranks at Citigroup, and will share their experiences as businesswomen.

Peter Remsch continues, “Citigroup is a premier global firm with businesses in over 100 countries around the world. We are deeply committed to developing a workforce that reflects the rich cultural, ethnic and gender diversity of our clients.”

Students are encouraged to come with questions for the speakers. Light refreshments will be served. If you are interested in attending this event, please RSVP to the WISE Office at projectwise@notes.cc.sunysb.edu before October 10th.

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**Where Are They Now?**

*Catching up with some WISE Alumnae*

Shazia Rana graduated from SUNY Stony Brook in May 2000 with a Biochemistry major. She is currently in the Masters/PhD program at SUNY Stony Brook studying Biomedical Engineering.

**How did your undergraduate experience in WISE influence your plans after college?**

“My undergrad experience in WISE helped me decide what I was going to do with the next part of my life. Upon taking the advice of one of my WISE mentors, I joined a research lab that focused on biomedical engineering. After I spent time there, I decided that this was way more interesting to me than anything I had come across, and at that moment I changed my future. And in a good way!”

**What advice do you have for current WISE students?**

“Take advantage of the opportunities presented to you in these few years. At no other time in your lives will you be exposed to such an eclectic mix of professors, labs, work opportunities, and learning experiences. Not to sound corny, but it really makes you a better person—not only because you're obtaining the knowledge, but because you're WILLING to obtain the knowledge.”

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**WISE Members**

*Scholarships and Awards*

Congratulations to the following WISE members for being selected for the following special scholarships!

**Diana David**, a junior CS major and mentor for WISE students, received the first annual **Diamond Award**, a scholarship given to a student with an educational commitment to technology.

**Jennifer Nierer**, a first year WISE student, received the **Omnicon Scholarship** which is awarded to a student who is studying computer science by the Omnicon Group in Hauppauge NY.

First year students WuYun Qi and Anita Chruvansky have been selected for the **Reuters Scholarship**. The purpose of the Reuters scholarship is to provide financial assistance to women accepted into the WISE program and who are pursuing a career in Computer Science.

**Angela Kokkosis** has been accepted into the prestigious **Women in Medicine** program. This program allows the participants to combine their undergraduate and medical studies, and enter into SUNY Medical School upon graduation.
By Sophia Khan

"Friendships formed and memories created will last a lifetime with WISE"

Hi WISE!! My name is Sophia Khan and I am the new Student Success Coordinator for Whitman and WISE. I am also a RA in Whitman College, on A2. I am here to make sure that we WISE Women get the most out of college in a more fun and exciting way. So join me in making all this happen at the best place to live on campus.

I am going to introduce to you Dana Jagessarsingh, a 3rd year WISE student and RA of BO/BI. Dana is a Biology Major and researches in an Immunology lab, playing with cells and many different chemicals!! With this experience, she plans to attend Medical School. WISE has been instrumental in shaping her years here at USB. Dana says, "WISE and Whitman are essential in bringing us to where we are right now. They play an intricate woven relationship where you meet many innovative and interesting people." Together we live and together we aspire. From baking cookies at 3 am, to building boats and floats, and showing our rhythm as the "Ladies in Red," not only are we very intelligent women, but we also know how to have a good time.

Please join us at the first WISE event at Whitman—the pizza party on Thursday October 4th at 7pm. All WISE members (even those who live elsewhere) are encouraged to attend.

The First annual Parent’s Day will occur on Saturday, October 27th on SUNY Stony Brook’s Main Campus. "Parent’s Day is a program for first year and transfer students and their parents" explains Parent’s Day Coordinator Christine Kollar. “The speakers and events are geared toward how students and parents and SUNY can form a three-way partnership for each students’ success.”

The day will start with an information fair with representatives from many different university departments, from the engineering department to campus dining to student activities. “This gives parents and students a chance to speak with different support services.” Ms. Kollar explains.

Then, students and parents will convene in the Student Activities Center auditorium for a series of speakers including Provost Robert McGrath, and Frederick Preston, Vice President for Student Affairs. Carmen Vasquez, the Dean of Students will give a keynote speech about how parents can help students adjust to college life. Ms. Vasquez is a former SUNY Stony Brook student, so she can offer a perspective as both a student and administrator. A buffet lunch and entertainment follow the speakers.

In the afternoon, academic advisors will set up tables in the SAC to give parents and students the chance to interact. The WISE Program will have a special dessert reception and lab tour for parents of WISE students in the afternoon. The reception will be held at Whitman Hall, where many WISE students live. From there, small groups of students and parents will tour through the Rapid Prototyping Lab, a state of the art engineering laboratory used to make models for research.

RSVPs are required both for Parent’s Day and for the WISE reception and lab tour. To get more information about Parent’s Day, please call 631-632-1736 or email Christine.Kollar@sunysb.edu.

For the WISE Reception, please call 631-632-9648 or email projectwise@notes.cc.sunysb.edu.
WISE Events Fall Semester 2001

Thursday Oct 4th  7pm

Pizza Party at Whitman Hall Lounge
All WISE students are invited! Please RSVP!

Wednesday Oct 10th  8:30am

Diamond Awards
Long Island Technology Center Great River, NY
Please RSVP for a ride
(not required)

Wednesday October 17th  7pm

Young Women at the Crossroads
Panel Discussion
SAC Auditorium
Required for all first year WISE

Saturday October 29th  1:30-3pm

Parent’s Day Reception
Whitman Hall Lounge
Event for first year students and their parents

Wednesday Nov 7th  7pm

Getting on Course: Registration Workshop
Physics S-240 (basement of Physics)
Required for all first year WISE

Tuesday, Dec 4th  7pm

Resume Workshop
Whitman Hall Lounge
Required for all first year WISE

Please RSVP for all events at projectwise@notes.cc.sunysb.edu or call  631-632-6947

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