

Hi everyone,

As this is my last Mindy's Monthly Minutes email, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my fans and supporters. It has been a privilege communicating with you for the past year. Without you, my virtual fan club, I would simply be talking to myself. Thank you.

OK with that emotional goodbye, I will introduce the new officers of WISC for 2007-2008:

Co-chairs: Victoria Landry and Jackie Catalano

Treasurer: Marlin Halim

Secretary: Mary Blair

Webmistress: Heidi Perry

Welcome to all.

Here's an outline of what we talked about tonight; see below for more details:

- I. Public service announcement
- II. Recent events
- III. Welcome new officers
- IV. Seeking departmental chairs
- V. New Game of Life chair
- VI. New Girls Science Day chairs
- VII. Upcoming events:
 - i. Departmental-specific recruiting
 - ii. Welcome/ Kickoff New Year event
 - iii. Science Consortium talk
 - iv. Siemens College Day
- VIII. MRSEC volunteers
- IX. NSEC speaker list
- X. Urban Assembly School Visits
- XI. Next meeting

I. Public Service Announcement: The gym is closed all week. I propose that we organize a WISC petition that proposes they reopen the gym, at least for a few hours a day. If not that, they should give us discounted membership to a local gym for the week. I am personally highly displeased.

II. Recent events: Graduate School Panel for REU students - this was a big success (thanks, Melinda!) Approximately 30 REU students came to listen to a panel of grad students and post-docs in various scientific disciplines share wisdom about their life.

We also participated in GK-12 expo. Dean Henry Pickham came over to Victoria (and the rest of the table) to indicate how pleased he is

with WISC and the activities we've been running.

III. Welcome to the new officers (see above). Looking forward to a great year.

IV. Seeking new departmental chairs: OK, this is a change from previous years. We are really interested in having departmental representatives who are actually active and have specific responsibilities, especially in departments that are poorly represented in WISC.

Responsibilities will include:

- a. Departmental specific recruiting
- b. Looking at the colloquium schedule for female speakers to go to breakfast with
- c. Publicizing WISC events in the department.

Currently filled departmental chairs are:

Chemistry - me

Biomedical engineering - Liz Oswald

Physics - Mari

APAM - Melinda

Still looking for representatives for the following departments:

Biology, E3B, Math, Statistics, Astronomy, DEES, Psychology

If you are a student in one of these departments and are looking to become more involved, feel free to volunteer.

V. Welcome to our new Game of Life Chair, Heidi Perry. If you have any ideas for Game of Life, or are looking to get involved, talk to Heidi (hap2102@columbia.edu) or stay tuned for more information.

VI. Big welcome to the new Girls Science Day coordinators - Kristy Tran and Marlin Halim. We will need a lot of volunteers for this very important event. More information forthcoming soon.

VII. Upcoming events:

- i. Departmental-specific recruiting - OK this is the first job for our newly appointed department representatives. Find out when your department welcomes new students. Make sure the new students know about WISC - you can send them an email, or steal/borrow a nice brochure that Jackie made for the GK12 expo - or set up a tea or party or whatever else you'd like to make sure that people know about us and we get new students. Thank you.

The chemistry department has reserved a time slot for new chemistry students on Thursday August 23rd in the Miller Room at 10 am. Thank you to Victoria for doing my job for me.

ii. Social event to recruit new members/ September meeting - Our September meeting is going to double as a social event. This will give new students a real feel for what we do at WISC, what our meetings are like, the kind of events we plan, etc. Also beer will be served and other fun snacks. This event will take place Monday September 17th, 6:15 pm, in the Miller room.

iii. Science Consortium - this is a new group, run in part by Liz, associated with the New York Academy of Sciences - for all interested parties in the New York area. The kickoff event will take place at Columbia, Thursday September 27th. Dr. Shelia Jasanoff will be giving a talk on "The Dynamic Interactions between Science, Technology, and Society." WISC may cosponsor part of this activity. Dr. Jasanoff is a prolific writer and is sure to be a very interesting speaker. Email Liz with more questions (eso19@columbia.edu).

iv. Siemens College Day will take place on Saturday October 20th in Lerner Hall. The target audience is 4th-8th graders. They are looking for volunteers to perform demonstrations in Lerner. More details to follow. Miriam said she would do a demonstration (thanks!).

VIII. MRSEC is looking for volunteers to help students with science fair projects. The time commitment is once every two weeks, for a couple of hours each time. You go to the same school and help students put together their projects. Interested? See Melinda: myh2102@columbia.edu

IX. NSEC is still putting together their list of speakers. You can contact them if you have any brilliant ideas. Or if you don't know who to speak to directly, try asking Melinda. I think she can probably help you.

X. Urban Assembly School visits will continue this year. Volunteer by emailing any of the WISC officers or waiting for more information.

XI. Next meeting Monday September 17th with beer (see above). Hope to see alot of new faces there.

One more thing: We're still looking for a social chair.

OK that's all for now. Goodbye, and good night, and good luck.

all the best,
Mindy