

Hi all,

Here are the minutes from this evening's WISC meeting:

1. Recent events you may have missed
 2. Graduate school panel discussion for undergrads
 3. What can you be with a PhD?
 4. Girls Science Day update
 5. Saturday Science Starters
 6. Urban Assembly School Volunteers
 7. Game of Life events
 8. What function does WISC serve for you?
 9. A plea for homeless mealworms
- Next meeting: November 12th at 6:15 pm in 328 Havemeyer

1. Recent events relevant to WISC members included the Chemistry department's WISC Sponsored Speaker, Melanie Sanford, on Sept. 18th. This year's speaker will be a physical chemist. Also, on Sept. 27th Sheila Jasanoff from the Kennedy School of Government spoke at a Science Consortium event about science and policy-making. There will be another Science Consortium event this week about science writing, and in November about communicating controversial areas of science.

2. A panel discussion for undergraduates about applying to grad school is being planned by Mary Franklin (mjf2133@columbia.edu) and Ritu Gupta (rg2170@columbia.edu) for Oct. 29th at 6:15pm. Please contact them if you would like to be on the panel – they are looking for people with diverse experiences, some who went straight to grad school, some who worked for awhile first, some who have NSF fellowships, etc.

3. A career fair entitled, "What can you be with a Ph.D.? A science and technology focused career convention" is coming to New York on November 2nd (at Columbia) and 3rd (at NYU School of Medicine) from 10am-4pm. For more information, check out the website: <http://www.whatcanyoubewithaphd.org>

4. Girls Science Day is coming along smoothly, and is scheduled for November 17th. Most volunteer and experiment leader slots are filled, but we need more help getting goodies for the gift bags. There is a small budget, so if you have an idea for something but can't get it for free, it might be feasible anyway. Contact Miriam Inbar (mi2131@columbia.edu) if you can help. The next planning meeting for Girls Science Day is Oct 22nd at 6:15pm in 328 Havemeyer.

5. Saturday Science Starters (S3) will be running for six weeks this semester. The first two experiments will be slime (this Saturday)

and bouncing balls (next Saturday). Experiment leaders are needed, so please contact Jeff Meisner (jm2812@columbia.edu) or Noah (njt2102@columbia.edu) if you'd like to participate!

6. Volunteers are also needed for "Labcoat lunches" at the Urban Assembly School of Math and Science in the Bronx. We are looking for individuals or pairs who could give very short presentations students over a free pizza lunch in November or December. Contact Mari LoVerde (marilena@phys.columbia.edu) if you're interested.

7. Game of Life Events will soon be in full force, but Mary Froemming (mf2103@columbia.edu) and Heidi Perry (hap2102@columbia.edu) need your ideas about established, interesting women scientists to invite. Let them know your ideas, or come to a brainstorming meeting which will be held before the next WISC meeting in November.

8. What does WISC do for you? We ended the meeting with a brief discussion about WISC and the functions we think it should serve. The general consensus was that WISC is being dominated at the moment by a lot of outreach activities, and we'd like to see more networking and peer-building activities. These activities might include lunches with women faculty across many departments, and "tapping into Barnard."

9. If you've made it this far, you must really care – so maybe you'll care enough to bring me (Mary Blair meb2127@columbia.edu) your used toilet paper and paper towel rolls to the next WISC meeting to make mealworm homes for my Girls Science Day experiment!?!? The mealworms will be eternally grateful!

The next WISC meeting is: November 12th, 6:15pm, Havemeyer 328.

Cheers!!

-Mary