**Note from the editors:**

WiSEM is looking forward to a busy and exciting fall semester. With the help of RU FAIR ADVANCE, we continue to work with faculty, students and staff in the university community to accomplish the WiSEM mission and program initiatives. We had a busy summer settling into our new location at the RUTCOR Building on Busch and working hard to launch our fall projects; workshops and networking events for faculty and graduate students are planned and underway, as well as an exciting array of colloquia, funded by RU FAIR mini-grants, showcasing all three Rutgers University campuses.

The RU FAIR ADVANCE funding is new, and our proposal is broad in scope, but we are working hard to:

**Transform the University:**

Our efforts to transform the university have a multi-pronged approach: through grass roots efforts working with RU FAIR professors and mini-grants; and through top down efforts working with University Administration.

Our RU FAIR professors, Dr. Arbuckle-Keil in Camden, Dr. Buettner in New Brunswick, and Dr. Weis and Dr. Shiffirar in Newark, are making progress planning and implementing their programs. We have awarded the second cycle of our Mini-Grants. For a listing of our events for Fall 2009 see our Fall Events calendar. You can find out more detailed information at.

**Help You Stay on Track: The Impact of Life Events**

This academic year the RU FAIR program will award Life-Cycle grants to faculty impacted by significant life events occurring at critical junctures in their careers. This initiative was modeled after the University of Wisconsin WISELI program, Vilas Life Cycle grants. An example of a life event at a critical career juncture would include having to care for an ailing parent while preparing to be reviewed for tenure. We view this program to be an important part of our retention initiatives. Our goal is to support faculty who may not have a social network to rely on in times of hardship, and who encounter unexpected events that may derail their professional progress.

**Bring Visibility to Women in Stem:**

During the summer, we have made updates for Faculty Profiles and My Stories. Let us know what you think by checking out the WiSEM webpage.

RU FAIR mini grant recipients in conjunction with WiSEM, are bringing noteworthy women scholars to Rutgers for talks in a variety of departments. Some of these visitors will also meet with smaller groups to discuss the challenges women face in their respective fields of study (see our Events Page).

One of our ongoing efforts is to define and nominate women faculty/staff in STEM fields for awards of achievement.
Your involvement is making the difference in our continued efforts to improve, expand and elevate our collegiate community. Mentoring students, participating in workshops, presenting on panels, are ways in which you can spread the word about WiSEM and RU FAIR. Please contact us, or come visit us at the RUTCOR Modular building, on Busch Campus to tell us about your ideas for colloquia, conferences, and workshops. Take a look at our past events to get an idea and check our events calendar about what’s ahead. We welcome suggestions for speakers.

**Connect with Other Women along the STEM Path**

**Mentoring Undergrads**

An important ingredient of success is mentoring. WiSEM is working with Project SUPER of the Douglass Residential College, and the Rosalind Franklin House to help support outstanding undergraduate women in STEM fields. We are also partnering with the WINGS program (Women Investing in and Guiding Students), [http://ruwings.rutgers.edu/](http://ruwings.rutgers.edu/), to actively match high achieving undergraduate women with mentors in STEM departments and provide them with strong academic guidance.

**Women in Graduate School (WIGS)**

Our Program Coordinator, Christina Leshko, has become president of the Women in Graduate School (WIGS) graduate student organization. WiSEM and WiGS will collaborate to organize exciting and informative workshops and seminars with special focus on science, engineering and mathematics. The purpose of WIGS is to create a support and advocacy group for female grads at Rutgers, while also providing workshops and social events with a professional bend. The first workshop, Funding & Grant Writing, will be held on Friday, October 16th at 2:00PM in Busch Campus Center, Rm 122 A. Presenters include Drs. Teresa Delcorso of the Resource Center for Graduate Student External Support, Sheryl Goldberg, of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, and Catherine Dukett, Scientific and Technical Writer.

**Science & Health Fair**

The Science & Health Fair, which is a one day-event highlighting Rutgers and UMDNJ women research scientists, is an effort to connect undergraduate students with faculty and graduate students in research fields related to health. The panels will introduce students to scientific inquiry focusing on health and wellness issues related to women and minorities. Students, faculty and staff will have a chance to receive information from a variety of educational institutions, and professional organizations as well as sample classes and products that promote wellness and health. Register now at [http://sciencewomen.rutgers.edu/](http://sciencewomen.rutgers.edu/)

**Partnering with AWIS**

The Association for Women in Science - Central Jersey Chapter and the Office for the Promotion of Women in Science, Engineering, & Mathematics will be partnering on Wednesday, November 4th, 2009 to present to the Rutgers community: Dr. Phoebe Leboy, President of AWIS and Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Pennsylvania. Her presentation will take place in the Fiber Optics Auditorium on Busch Campus at 6pm. There will be a reception prior to her presentation in the foyer of Fiber Optics at 5pm.

**Final Notes**

Our Assistant Director, Dr. Thess Hinnant-Bernard, left Rutgers and took a tenure-track position at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. We wish her great success.

*WiSEM Staff (L-R): Thess Hinnant-Bernard, Joan Bennett, Carey Murray, Christina Leshko, Natalie Batmanian*
Fall RU FAIR & WiSEM Events

Mini Grants
RU FAIR mini-grant funded events are designed to promote and support women in STEM fields. Interdisciplinary research and programs will strengthen women-centered networks, informal mentorship and collaboration, needed to advocate institutional change to close the gender gap.

Sisterhood Network Program:
A Continual Intellectual Space for Women of Color at Rutgers University
Organized by Drs. Robyn Rodriguez & Zaire Dinzey-Flores
Given the challenges faced by women of color faculty, we seek to create a one-year program (AY 2009-2010) that aims to foster a nurturing academic community for women of color faculty at Rutgers University.

Negotiating Basics: for Academic Women
Friday, October 2nd, 2009
11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Organized by Drs. Dorothy Hodgson & Beth Hutchinson
Institute for Research on Women (IRW)
Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building
162 Ryders Lane
New Brunswick, NJ

Fungal Phylogeny:
It takes a community
Organized by Dr. Meredith Blackwell
Professor of Biological Sciences at Louisiana State University
Friday, October 2nd, 2009
12:30 - 1:30 pm
Organized by Dr. Ning Zhang
Foran Hall, Room 138A

Can executive functions be rehabilitated?
Evidence in cognition, behavior, and self-efficacy
Dr. Catherine Mateer
Professor and Vice-President of the University of Victoria, British Columbia,
Friday, October 9th, 2009
The colloquia is at 1pm with a reception following.
Organized by Dr. Maggie Shiffrar,
“Women in Behavioral and Neuroscience Colloquium”
Smith Hall, Room 371
101 Warren Street
Newark, NJ

The First Annual Science & Health Fair
Wednesday, October 21st, 2009
Registration opens at 9am
Fair runs until 4:30pm
Douglass Campus Center
This one-day event will focus specifically on women’s health issues. The event highlights health concerns important to students, faculty and staff and will showcase the research of Rutgers and UMDNJ clinicians and scientists. Keynote speaker Dr. Gloria Bachmann, Director of Women’s Health Institute and panelists will expand on topics including: health and the environment, healthy habits of the body and mind, and gender and race disparities in health.
*this is not a Mini-Grant sponsored event

The Consequences of Making a Decision: Feedback Signals and Learning
Dr. Julie Fiez
Professor of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh
Friday, October 23rd, 2009
The colloquia is at 1pm with a reception following.
Organized by Dr. Maggie Shiffrar,
“Women in Behavioral and Neuroscience Colloquium”
Smith Hall, Room 371
101 Warren Street
Newark, NJ

Dr. Phoebe Leboy
The Association for Women in Science – Central Jersey Chapter and the Office for the Promotion of Women in Science, Engineering and Mathematics present:
Dr. Phoebe Leboy
President of AWIS and Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Pennsylvania
Wednesday, November 4th, 2009
6 pm – 8 pm
Reception in the foyer at 5 pm.
Fiber Optics Auditorium, Busch Campus
*this is not a Mini-Grant sponsored event
Fall RU FAIR & WiSEM Events Continued...

Expand your toolkit with STEM skills you’ll develop at these programmed events!

Rutgers Faculty Forum:
“The Science of Women/Women in Science”

Friday, November 6th, 2009
11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Organized by Drs. Dorothy Hodgson & Beth Hutchison
Institute for Research on Women (IRW)
Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building
162 Ryders Lane
New Brunswick, NJ

Why do physicists have mistresses?
When sex meets physical science

Dr. Amy Bug
Professor of Physics, Swarthmore College
Thursday, November 19th, 2009
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Fine Arts Building, Room 110
314 Linden Street
Rutgers University, Camden Campus
Camden, NJ 08102
Reception to follow.
Laurie Bernstein, “When Sex Meets Science”

Hyena Science Presentation:
Dr. Kay Holekamp

Friday, November 13th, 2009
1:00 pm – 3:30pm
Fiber Optics Auditorium, Busch Campus
Organized by Drs. Danielle McCarthy & David Vicario
Psychology Department, New Brunswick

Dr. Amy Rossman
Research Leader for the Systematic Mycology & Microbiology Laboratory, USDA
Friday, December 4th, 2009
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Organized by Dr. Ning Zhang
Foran Hall, Room 138A

Life Cycle Grants Available

Life Cycle grants will be available to Rutgers faculty (tenure-track or tenured, female or male) in NSF supported disciplines who are at critical junctures in their professional careers and who face potential significant impediments to their research productivity because of personal life events (either those that they are currently experiencing or those that they have experienced that still are affecting research and other professional responsibilities). The award of these funds is intended to ensure that the pace of research slows as little as possible, and that scientists facing life transitions can continue their research and teaching responsibilities even when events in their personal life are making or have made significant demands on their time and other personal resources.

These grants are meant to be flexible and faculty may apply for varying amounts and for diverse academic purposes. The overall aim is to assist faculty members to maintain productivity or meet key professional commitments and/or deadlines when unexpected personal events interfere with critical career junctures.

Hyena Science Lunch Discussion

Monday, November 16th, 2009
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Pre-registration required.
Cook Campus Center, Multipurpose Room B
Organized by Drs. Danielle McCarthy & David Vicario,
“Hyena Science”
Psychology Department, New Brunswick
Past Events

Operations Research BBQ
Faculty, staff, & students had a great time at our Operations Research BBQ on June 15th, 2009. Drs. Mine Subasi & Melike Baykal-Gursoy spoke passionately about their experiences in the field.

Examining Unconscious Bias
Dr. Jennifer Sheridan from the Women in Science & Engineering Leadership Institute (WISELI) of the University of Wisconsin-Madison presented at Rutgers University on Wednesday, April 29th on unconscious bias, deconstructing bias language, and the results & methods of her program's workshops.

Camden WiS Luncheon
Recently appointed RU FAIR Professor, Dr. Georgia Arbuckle-Keil held a successful luncheon on Monday, May 4th, 2009 to discuss improving the status of women in science at Rutgers-Camden. She received input for possible future events in fall of 2009. If you have any additional ideas concerning possible events for science faculty, please contact Dr. Arbuckle-Keil.

NJ Women in Science Reception
On Thursday, May 28th, 2009 Debbie Goldstein presented on "Managing Difficult Conversations: At the Lab AND in the Home" to a group of faculty, staff, and students. There were over 60 participants. Thanks to all those who made our reception such a great success! This event was sponsored by RU FAIR, Bio-1 Wired, and the Office for the Promotion of Women in Science, Engineering, & Mathematics.

Newark WiS Luncheon
The Newark Women in Science luncheon, hosted by RU FAIR Professor, Dr. Maggie Shiffrar, on March 30th, was a great success with attendees from various departments and excellent administrative representation. Several ideas were suggested for helping the Newark campus to further the success of its SEM women, including a new hires orientation for the science departments, an informal best practices handbook, and the creation of a "Potential hires/speakers" database.

Work/Life Balance Workshop
On June 8th, 2009 the Office for Promotion of Women in Science, Engineering, & Mathematics held its first graduate student workshop entitled "Finding the Balance: Achieving stability between work and life."