



welcomes you to

**The AWIS-HOI Celebration of 150 years of ISU
Women in STEM (from 1857 to 2007)
and AWIS-HOI / ISU Physics Women in
STEM Career Pen Pal Mentors Recognition Ceremony**

Friday, October 5, 2007 (3:30 - 5:30pm)
at Illinois State University's Bone Student Center
(Faculty/Staff Commons Room)
as part of ISU's University Club Discussion Series



This AWIS-HOI community service event brings together women professionals in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) from the Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan University, and local communities to celebrate and recognize past and future Women in STEM Careers Pen Pal Project Mentors. The Pen Pal Project each year is a partnership between AWIS-HOI Mentors and area high school students and teachers. The Recognition Ceremony today is one small way to thank them for their contributions to helping to inspire and encourage the next generation of scientists, inventors, and educators.

An additional feature of this Friday's event is that we've invited the ISU departments with colleagues being honored as Pen Pal Mentors to provide displays showcasing their educational and career opportunities. There will also be an exhibit created by AWIS-HOI and the ISU Physics Department that is a "snapshot" of the 150 years of ISU Women in Science and Math. Illinois State University has a rich history of educational excellence and AWIS-HOI and ISU Physics are proud to share this exhibit with the community. An electronic version of this exhibit will be available next week by visiting our AWIS-HOI website: www.phy.ilstu.edu/AWIS-HOI.

Finally, as a complement to our AWIS-HOI 150th event this Friday, we've invited the McLean County Museum of History to also provide an exhibit of their programming--especially this year's *Evergreen Cemetery Discovery Walk 2007* that features a 150th ISU theme featuring legendary ISU dignitaries. Kathleen Kirk, who portrays ISU's first Librarian Ange Milner, has also graciously agreed to join us this Friday from 3:30 - 4:30pm--in costume and in character.

AWIS-HOI Especially Thanks our event Co-Sponsors: Association for Women in Science (Heart of Illinois Chapter), the ISU University Club, Dr. Carol Struck of ISU's 150th Celebration, the ISU Physics Department, the ISU Mathematics Department, and ISU's College of Arts and Sciences.

ISU's University Club: is a great way to meet members of the diverse University community. Membership is open to all current and retired faculty and staff of Illinois State University. It meets nearly every Friday to discuss topics of interest and provide networking opportunities. The University Club also hosts gourmet dinners and is particularly proud of its scholarship program—awarding ten \$300 scholarships to students in December 2006. Memberships and answers to questions can be obtained at meetings or by contacting University Club President, Dr. Robert Preston at (309) 438-7933 rlpresto@ilstu.edu. If your organization is interested in sponsoring a *University Club Discussion Hour*, please visit their webpage for more information: www.lilt.ilstu.edu/uclub.

Admission to this event is free and open to the public. We're glad that you joined us today.

Women in STEM Careers Pen Pal Mentors being Honored Today:

Dr. Laura Vogel, ISU Biological Sciences Department, was a Pen Pal Mentor in 2004 & 2005

My research focus is immunology, particularly how immune responses are regulated. We study interactions between white blood cells known as B lymphocytes and T lymphocytes using the mouse as a model system. Below are some of the on-going projects in our laboratory. *Aging and the immune system:* Why does the immune system of the elderly function poorly and what can we do to improve their health? In particular we are interested in B cell responses and antibodies in aged individuals. *Gender-based dimorphism:* It has long been known that females are more prone to autoimmune diseases and tend to mount more vigorous immune responses. However, the molecular mechanisms behind these differences are not well understood. Using the model we developed to study B-T cell interactions we are investigating the role of sex and parity in antibody responses.



Dr. Jean Sawyer, ISU Communication Sciences & Disorders Department, was a Pen Pal Mentor in 2006

Her research interests are in fluency disorders, with a focus on early childhood stuttering, and on the neurophysiological bases of speech and language. Dr. Sawyer received her M.A. and Ph.D. in Speech and Hearing Science at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. Her B.S. is in English from Iowa State University, and she has an M.A. in linguistics from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She worked clinically with preschool-aged children who stutter for six years at the Illinois Stuttering Research Project in Champaign-Urbana, and was a speech pathologist in the school setting in Champaign.



Dr. Lori A. Woeste, ISU Health Sciences Department, was a Pen Pal Mentor in 2007

In addition to more than 20 years clinical laboratory science experience, Dr. Woeste earned her Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Illinois State University. In her three years of teaching at ISU, she has taught general education courses as well as the CLS major courses of Introduction & Advanced Clinical Chemistry, Clinical Biochemistry, Laboratory Management & Education, and CLS Special Topics & Research Design. Dr. Woeste's research interests include the scholarship of teaching and learning in Clinical Laboratory Science as well as curriculum design. Dr. Woeste is currently working on: the inclusion of CLS students in basic science research, whole cell biocatalysts for producing biodiesel from waste fats, and associated curriculum development.



Dr. Raneé Thiagarajah, ISU Mathematics Department, was a Pen Pal Mentor in 2007

She is an Associate of the Society of Actuaries and a Member of the American Academy of Actuaries. She has previously taught statistics and actuarial science at the University of Windsor, University of Waterloo, Concordia University and the University of Iowa. She has published research papers in statistics and actuarial science in leading journals. She worked as an actuary at Lincoln National Life and Swiss Re insurance companies. *Web site of ISU actuarial program:* www.math.ilstu.edu/actuary/



Ms. Terrina L. Smith, ISU Physics Department, was a Pen Pal Mentor in 2007

She is a Computer Physics Major planning to pursue graduate studies in engineering after graduation. Ms. Smith also serves as an Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for the Physics Department. In addition, Terrina is a Research Assistant in Dr. Shang-Fen Ren's research group for which Ms. Smith gave a research presentation at the Argonne National Laboratory Undergraduate Research Symposium in Fall 2006. She is also a co-Workshop Leader presenter at the *Expanding Your Horizons Through Math, Science, and Technology Conference* held at ISU each year.



Ms. Archana Shekara, ISU Institutional Web Support Services, was a Pen Pal Mentor in 2006

Ms. Shekara had worked as a Graphic Designer/Art Director for eight years at the time she was a Pen Pal. At IWSS, she was a graphic designer for the web. Her designs were conceptual, artistic, professional and met client's needs. She said that she loved to challenge herself in her designs to create a balance in both print and web media. She had also worked as CS&A Marketing and communications and Osborn & DeLong (design studios) mainly doing design for print. She has experience designing annual reports, corporate identity (logos, stationary materials, brochures, marketing and collateral pieces, etc.) while working in a fast paced environment. Currently, she is an Instructional Assistant Professor in ISU's School of Art.



Women in STEM Careers Pen Pal Mentors being Honored Today:

Ms. Sarah A. Walczynski, ISU Laboratory for Integrated Learning Technology, was a Pen Pal Mentor in 2004 & 2005

As Manager of ISU's College of Arts and Sciences *Laboratory for Integrated Learning Technology* (LILT), Ms. Walczynski is a vital link for faculty and departments in using new learning technologies. In addition to her many responsibilities, Ms. Walczynski: 1) maintains a cutting edge computer training and development facility, 2) develops College, Departmental, Grant, and Faculty websites, 3) maintains servers and programs for the purpose of teaching such as online quizzing, grade reporting, communication, and online collaboration, and 4) in particular, she runs the LILT server which hosts over 500 faculty websites, 27 department and organizational sites, and secure testing areas. She also served as the 2002 Keynote Speaker for ISU's *Expanding Your Horizons Through Math, Science, and Technology Conference*. She also won ISU's Williams Technology Award.



Dr. Kira Hudson Banks, IWU Psychology Department, was a Pen Pal Mentor in 2007

She joined the Illinois Wesleyan faculty in 2004. Her involvement in the local community has included mentoring and tutoring elementary school children through the Discovery Learning Program at the Western Avenue Community Center. Banks partnered with the McLean County Urban League to bring a pilot math and science program for middle-school girls to the Twin Cities. The *GO-GIRL (Gaining Options: Girls Exploring Real Life)* program encourages girls to remain involved in math and science classes throughout high school and college. Banks also was among the "20 Under 40" young community leaders recognized by *The Pantagraph* (Sept. 20, 2006). In Fall 2006, she received the *Athena Award*--sponsored by the McLean County Chamber of Commerce Women's Division--for her excellence, leadership, and commitment to the community.



Dr. Victoria L. Finkenstadt, National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, USDA Laboratory in Peoria, was a Pen Pal Mentor in 2004

Dr. Victoria Finkenstadt earned her doctorate in Carbohydrate Chemistry from the Whistler Center for Carbohydrate Research at Purdue University in 1997. Her doctoral dissertation involved structure-function properties of polysaccharides. She received her undergraduate degree in chemistry from McPherson College (Kansas) in 1989. She has worked in the pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences in both quality control and R&D. She has been at the National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research (USDA) in Peoria, IL since 1998. Her research projects involve polymer chemistry, advanced material engineering, value-added product development from agricultural commodities and theoretical investigations into polymer systems.



Dr. Becky Roesner, IWU Chemistry Department, is a Pen Pal Mentor in 2008

Becky Roesner earned her B.A., with a double major in chemistry and history, from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1992 and her Ph.D., in inorganic chemistry, from the University of Kansas in 1998. She is the Chemistry Department Chair at Illinois Wesleyan University where she teaches Gateway General Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, and Advanced Inorganic Synthesis. Her research interests include transition metal oxide clusters (polyoxometalates), macrocyclic ring compounds, and the extraction and identification of plant hormones.



Women in STEM Career Pen Pal Mentors also Honored, but not Present:

- ISU Biological Sciences Department-- Ms. Alicia Mullarkey(2007)
- ISU Chemistry Department -- Dr. Marjorie A. Jones (2004)
- ISU Communication Sciences & Disorders Department-- Dr. Jennifer Friberg (2008)
- ISU Geography/Geology Department-- Dr. Amy Bloom (2005); & Ms. Oluseyi Ogunlela (2007)
- ISU School of Information Technology -- Ms. Melanie Johnston (2008)
- ISU Mathematics Department -- Dr. Carol T. Benson (& University High School) (2004); and Dr. Heather Jordon (2008)
- ISU Technology Department -- Dr. Anu Gokhale (2004)
- ISU Campus Dining Services -- Ms. Arlene Hosea (2006)
- IWU Mathematics -- Dr. Zahia Drici (2005)
- IWU Physics & Astronomy -- Dr. Linda French (2006)
- Carle Clinic in Normal -- Dr. M. Regina Rosa (2006)
- Challenger Learning Center, Prairie Aviation Museum -- Ms. Janet Moore (2004)
- Osco Pharmacy on Veteran's Parkway -- Ms. Jennifer Parry (2006)
- Shive-Hattery Architects & Engineers -- Ms. Lisa Peacock (2006)
- Water Department, Town of Normal -- Ms. Dawn Perry (2005)