



Wesleyan hosts women in science panel

By Kristin Lucas

Published: Thursday, November 11, 2004

Women in science and technology careers will speak about their chosen fields tonight at Illinois Wesleyan University.

"It is called 'Women Forging Science and Technology Careers in the New Millennium.' Moderator Amy Bloom along with five other women will talk about educational preparation, why they chose their careers and who helped them along the way," said Grace Johns, administrative assistant to the chair of the ISU Physics Dept.

"The women will talk about what they know now that they wish they knew when they first entered their field of work," Johns said.

Johns is a member of the Heart of Illinois chapter of the Association for Women in Science, the organization presenting tonight's speakers.

Sara Walczynski, manager of the Lab for Integrated Learning Technologies, is one of the women who will speak at the event.

"I was approached to speak at this event because I was a keynote speaker at ISU's 'Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Technology Conference,'" Walczynski said. Walczynski previously worked as a mentor to young women.

"I plan to talk about how mentors play a role in shaping a person's career pathway," Walczynski said. "It is important for women to know that with careers in technology, people are usually judged by skills and acquisition and not by traditional gender roles. I will talk about how women can handle a career as well as a family and a social life."

Johns encouraged students interested in science and technology careers to attend.

"The speakers could be especially helpful for students' families who may have questions about their child's chosen career path. Of course, all students, faculty and members of the community are welcome to attend," Johns said.

Johns said IWU has provided the location while ISU has provided printing costs and hosted the web site.

Tonight's event will be at 7p.m. in room C101 of the IWU Science Building. After the event, a reception in the atrium will follow.