

2019 SUMMARY

Celebrating 20 years of WiSE!

We help women in STEM reach their full potential

For 20 years, Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) has proudly supported the recruitment, persistence, and advancement of women in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics).

Led by women faculty and professional staff, WiSE serves a total of 17 STEM departments at Syracuse University.

Our diverse programming and events offer women in STEM a wide variety of networking and learning opportunities, as well as support, encouragement, and inspiration. Through research-based strategies and an active community of mentors and peers, we help women students and faculty achieve their professional goals.

WiSE offers programming for women in STEM at all levels—for undergraduate and graduate students, postdocs, and faculty.



WiSE Faculty-2-Faculty Lunch on December 16, 2019

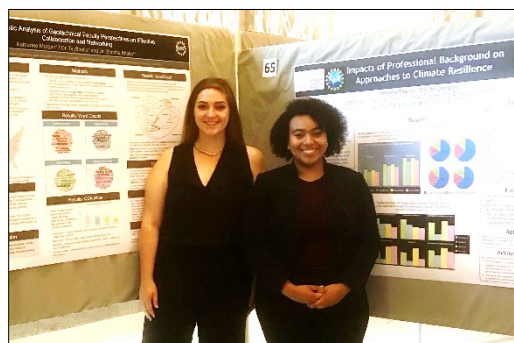
“I learned how to approach research and how to present it in concise and clear methods.”

*-WiSE Summer Research participant
(via survey)*

New in 2019! WiSE Summer Research

WiSE provided matching grants to 17 women undergraduate students for STEM research projects over the summer, giving participants an early introduction to the research process. The group represented multiple disciplines, including Biology, Biomedical Engineering, Chemistry, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Languages, Literatures & Linguistics, Mathematics, Neuroscience, Pre-Medicine, and Psychology.

Two workshops were held: (1) a session exploring bias in STEM, and strategies in how to address; and (2) a poster presentation practice session. The successful pilot program concluded with students presenting their research at conferences. Participant Kenzie Swanson took second place in the General Sciences category at the Engineering Symposium!



WiSE Summer Research participants with their posters

PROGRAMS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

WiSE Women of Color in STEM

WiSE Women of Color in STEM (WWoCS) continued to bring women students of color together with graduate mentors and faculty, fostering community and a sense of belonging. The following WWoCS sessions were offered:

- **New in 2019!** Pushing Back Against Bias: Parts 1-3
February 20, March 20, and April 17, 2019
- WWoCS Fall Welcome
September 26, 2019
- Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)
October 23, 2019
- Group Discussion (about campus incidents) & Health Eating for the Holidays
December 5, 2019



WWoCS Fall Welcome on September 26, 2019

Norma Slepecky Undergraduate Research Prize & Lecture

On April 22, 2019, the annual Norma Slepecky Undergraduate Research Prize was awarded to Yongna Lei for her research ("Effects of ALS-Linked Mutations on the Liquid-Liquid Phase Separation Behavior of Ubiquilin-2"). The Slepecky ceremony, held in collaboration with the Department of Biology, also included a lecture by Dr. Kelly Benoit-Bird, Marine Biologist at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute. Dr. Benoit-Bird gave an informative talk on resolving the food paradox in the sea.



*Norma Slepecky Ceremony on April 22, 2019
Prize recipient Yongna Lei (center)*

First Year Forum

Offered for a second year, First Year Forum welcomed all students interested in learning more about women in STEM. Presented over six weeks, the course connected 54 participants with women faculty, peers, and the campus resources they need to be successful. New this year, a celebratory dinner for all participants was held on October 17, 2019.

Collaborations

WiSE collaborated with the College of Engineering and Computer Science (ECS) and others on the following two programs for undergraduates:

- ECS Painting Night
February 21, 2019, Collaborators: (1) Alpha Omega Epsilon (AOE); (2) National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE); (3) Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE); (4) Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE); (5) Society of Women Engineers (SWE); (6) ECS; and (7) WiSE
- Fall Welcome for Women Graduate Students in Engineering
October 2, 2019, Collaborators: (1) ECS; and (2) WiSE

PROGRAMS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

WiSE Future Professionals Program

WiSE continued to offer its Future Professionals Program (WiSE-FPP), a two-year professional development and support initiative for women in STEM at the graduate level. For program year 2019-2020, 49 WiSE-FPP Associates were accepted. The following sessions were offered, including breakfast discussions with faculty—new for 2019:

- Career & Work-Life Balance Breakfast with WiSE Faculty (Laura VanderDrift)
January 30, 2019
- After Hours Happy Hour: Networking Event
February 7, 2019
- Writing Research Statements
February 27, 2019
- Career & Work-Life Balance Breakfast with WiSE Faculty (Lisa Manning)
March 20, 2019
- Norma Slepecky Lunch for Women Graduate Students and Postdocs
April 22, 2019
- WiSE-FPP Fall Welcome & Orientation
October 1, 2019
- Lunch with Special Guest Dr. Cacey Bester
October 10, 2019
- Sexual Harassment & Gender Discrimination: An Introduction to Research, Strategies, and Resources
October 29, 2019
- Social Hour at Citrus
November 7, 2019
- Communication Skills
November 13, 2019
- Breakfast with Alyssa Campbell: Sexual Harassment & Gender Discrimination Follow Up/Case Studies
November 20, 2019
- December Dinner Program: Healthy Eating for Busy Students
December 4, 2019

Offered in collaboration with the Graduate Student Organization (for all graduate students in STEM):

- Scientific Writing Workshop
January 11, 2019



WiSE-FPP Dinner Program on December 4, 2019

PROGRAMS FOR POSTDOCS

WiSE continued to bring women postdocs in STEM together for valuable networking and mentorship opportunities.

Program highlights included: (1) practical sessions in how to improve writing skills with Dr. Elizabeth Paley on January 10 and June 18, 2019; (2) an intro to networking workshop on November 1, 2019; and (3) an intro to mentoring lunch for postdocs and mentors on December 20, 2019. WiSE Postdocs also held a supportive writing group about twice a month.



Mentoring Lunch on December 20, 2019

PROGRAMS FOR FACULTY

WiSE continued to foster a network of STEM women faculty, supporting one another across campus through peer mentorship, information sharing, and professional development activities. 2019 events for faculty included:

- **New in 2019!** Practical Strategies to Move Closer to Being “Just Whelmed”
February 1, 2019
- Leadership Development for Women Faculty
May 2, 2019
- Writing Workshop
June 17, 2019
- New Faculty Lunch
October 3, 2019
- Lunch & Learn: Teaching Evaluations
November 8, 2019
- Lunch & Learn: Peer Mentoring Panel
November 15, 2019
- Faculty-2-Faculty Lunch
December 16, 2019

“Thanks for a great network!”

*-WiSE faculty member
(via survey)*

Published in 2019! The following chapter highlights the WWoCS program and findings, and was written by multiple members of the WiSE Leadership Team:

Johnson, D.R., Blum, M.E., Lewis, K.E. and Alestalo, S.W. (2019). [Intersectionality as praxis for equity in STEM: A WiSE women of color program \(529kb PDF\)](#). In D. Mitchell, J. Marie and T. Steele (Eds.) Intersectionality and higher education: Theory, research, and practice (2nd ed.) pp. 221-229. New York, NY: Peter Lang Publishing.

WiSE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Co-Directors

Shobha Bhatia
Katharine (Kate) Lewis

WiSE Women of Color in STEM

Dawn Johnson (lead)
Michelle Blum
Ruth Phillips
Eve Humphrey

Graduate Mentors: Ashley Douglass, Fran Silva-Genier, Isabel Munoz, and Tonya Wilson

Norma Slepecky Undergraduate Research Prize & Lecture

Natalie Russo

General Undergraduate Programs

Katie Becklin (lead)
Rachel Steinhardt

First Year Forum Instructors: Katie Becklin, Catherine Cornwell, Steluta Dinca, Nicole Fonger, Moira McDermott, Ruth Phillips, and Jessica Redmond

WiSE Future Professionals Program

Shikha Nangia (lead)
Heather Coleman
Brittany Jakubiak
Sucheta Soundarajan

Postdoc Mentoring

Susan Parks (lead)
Samantha England
Huan Gu

Faculty Mentoring

Suzanne Baldwin (lead)
Melissa Green

Leadership Development

Eleanor Maine (lead)
Qinru Qiu
Amy Criss

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Sharon Alestalo, Program Director
Amanda Latreille, Program Support Coordinator
Isabel Munoz, Graduate Program Assistant
Kate Kemnitz and Joselyn Vidaca, Undergraduate Program Assistants