Come to Our Summer Reunion!

Connect with old friends and meet new friends! All alumnae (campers and staff) are invited and encouraged to attend!

Friday, July 25
5:00-8:30pm

5:00: Join the 2008 campers for dinner at Higgins House behind the Campus Center. For a reminder of where Higgins House is, see Campus Maps at www.wpi.edu/About/Visitors. Dinner and everything else is FREE, thanks to Camp Reach supporters!

6:00-8:30: Fun activities including air-brush painting on t-shirts, karaoke, and DDR. (T-shirts will be supplied.)

8:30: Pick-up time, at the Campus Center Information Desk.

PLEASE RSVP! We need to pre-order the correct number of meals, and we get charged for that number, regardless of how many people show up! So saying you’ll come should be a firm commitment. Please respond to help us with these logistics! Sorry, we’re not able to accommodate friends— only Reach alumnae. RSVP by calling the Office of Women’s Programs at (508) 831-5819 , or send e-mail to reach@wpi.edu by Friday, July 18.

Here’s What’s in our Newsletters for Each Reach Class!

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<th>Grade 7</th>
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| Grade 8 | Engineering in Daily Life: Cell Phones, Cosmetics, High Tech Clothes, and More | Self Esteem and Self Confidence |
| Grade 9 | Science and Engineering of Sports | Dealing with Stress                  |
| Grade 10 | Engineers Enabling the Disabled | Balancing School and Part-Time Jobs   |
| Grade 11 | Protecting the Planet | Planning for College Admissions       |
| Grade 12 | Commencement: Being an Undecided Major, Careers for Engineering Majors, Tips for Entering the Workforce | Study Habits for College |
Design Project Updates

All-Persons Trail Opens at Broad Meadow Brook

June 12 marked the opening of the first all persons-accessible trail, the relocated Holdredge Trail, at this Massachusetts Audubon Sanctuary in Worcester. The trail goes from the visitors’ center down to the boardwalk leading to Frog Pond and the Sprague Trail. The trail used to be steep with rough footing. Now it has many switchbacks so that slopes are gradual. It also has a relatively smooth, compacted surface. In 2006 a Camp Reach design team researched options for making a portion of the Sprague Trail all persons-accessible. They also analyzed possible locations and designs for a bridge across the brook. The Director of the sanctuary, Deb Cary, told Chrys that that project is next on her agenda! In fact, she already has two grant proposals pending, one to improve that portion of the Sprague Trail and one for a bridge across the brook. So check the Holdredge Trail this summer and stay tuned for next steps!

Planning for Implementation of Projects at Rainbow Child Development Center Proceed Slowly But Surely

As reported in our previous newsletter, two Camp Reach design teams in 2007 contributed to an effort to improve the playground and outdoor storage facilities at the RCDC. The Executive Director Barbara Guthrie recently reported on a key meeting with “the playground guy” and Mark the construction specialist. Using the teams’ reports as a starting point, they decided on a variation of a terracing plan and placement of retaining walls. They also plan to resurface the current asphalt area. Barbara is now waiting for the playground specialist to draw up the plan and then they will meet again and determine a cost estimate and shed placement.

WINTER REUNION

Over 40 people came to our reunion in March— it was a blast! We tried our best to make simple ice cream taking advantage of salt’s effect in lowering the freezing point of water, then shake shake shake. Then it was off to Gompel’s Gutters for strikes, spares, and gutter bulls. It was great to see everyone! Does anyone have ideas for future reunions? Send your ideas to reach@wpi.edu.

Above from left to right: Amanda, Amy, Abeer, and Rachel all alumnae from 2005. Above from left to right, alumnae from 2006: Erin, Beth, Haley, Katie, and Abby.
Meet our New Academic Coordinator!

My name is Sue Sontgerath. I am originally from Western Massachusetts, but now live in Shrewsbury. I went to college right here in Worcester at WPI. I have a degree in Mechanical Engineering. I have a husband who is from Germany and 2 daughters. My husband is also a mechanical engineer, but now works in finance. I lived in Germany for 2 years and learned to speak German there. I love to read, work in my garden, and travel.

I didn’t always know that I wanted to be an engineer. When I was in the 8th grade, I didn’t really know what I would study in college. At that point, all I knew is that I loved math and science. In high school, my Dad suggested that I think about engineering. At that time not many girls were going into engineering and it was a great career to have. It still is. I looked into engineering schools and decided to try it. Even when I first entered college, I am not sure I knew exactly what engineering was all about. That’s why I am involved in programs like Camp Reach which help young women like you learn about engineers and engineering!

I have had many types of jobs in my career as an engineer. When I graduated from college, I worked as a design engineer, and helped to design parts of the space shuttle. After that, I decided I would like to have more opportunity to work with a variety of different people, so I took a job as an applications engineer making airplane engine parts. As an applications engineer, you get to work with the customer and the people in your company to help solve problems. In my last job, I worked as a customer service engineer making all sorts of things including door knobs and bicycle parts! Now I am working for WPI trying to help educate other people about engineering and becoming an engineer. I think it’s important to know that with an engineering education you can do just about anything!!

Staff for Reach 2008

Again this year we have assembled a terrific group of TAs, MSTs, and residential staff who become the heart of Camp Reach, and most are program alumnae! Erin Dagle ('00) (photo below left) will be serving as the After-Hours Coordinator. Previously Erin has served as a TA and twice as an RA. Jenn Giard ('01) (photo below right) will be returning for her third year as a staff member, her second as an RA. Tanya Hakim ('02) will also be returning for her third year, this time as an RA. And the following alumnae from the Reach Classes of 2003 and 2004 will be serving as TAs: Adrienne Anderson, Megan Beaver, Adrienne Cocci, Melissa Cowan, Keeley Driscoll, Molly Eldredge, Grace Maliska, Liza Semenova, and Alex Tomaszewski. Congratulations and thank you to these staff!

We want your new postal address and E-MAIL!

If you move: Please take a moment to contact us, either by phone, letter, or e-mail. We very much want to keep in contact with everyone!

AND if you get access to e-mail or change your e-mail address please let us know so we can update our e-mail list! This allows you to get announcements of Reach events as soon as they are known, as well as other useful postings (typically no more than one per month).

There is an easy form you can use on the Reach website to submit changes in postal and e-mail addresses. The Reach website is http://www.wpi.edu/+reach, and the change of address form is in the Alumnae section.
From Alumnae and Staff

Class of ’97

Erin Dalianis (TA ’02): I’m actually living in Texas now! I moved down this past July with my boyfriend, who was taking a job at Samsung. I’m working at a residential treatment center for kids who have been neglected and abused, and I’m waiting to hear back from grad schools - if I get in, I’ll be going for a Master’s in either Counseling or Social Work. I hope the reunion and this year’s camp go well!

Class of ’98

Sarah Rich (TA ’03): By the time this is printed, I will have graduated from MIT with a degree in Nuclear Science and Engineering. This past year has been especially interesting because seniors complete a group design project and an individual thesis in their final year. My group’s project was to design a device to test the durability of metals in a high radiation environment. Eventually the device will be built and run inside the core of the MIT research reactor. My thesis work is not quite as exciting; I studied the structure of a material that may be used to isolate nuclear waste from the environment when the repository at Yucca Mountain is built.

As for future plans, I’ll be moving to Pennsylvania to work for the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the government agency that oversees safety at power reactors. Now that power companies are planning to expand and build more nuclear generating stations, or relicense their old ones, the NRC has a lot on its plate.

Mary Kate Toomey: I graduated in May from WPI with a BS in Civil Engineering and High Honors. Our MQP (senior design project) was second in the department. We designed a graduate housing complex for Gateway Park that would be home to about 150 people and 4-6 businesses in addition to exploring zoning ordinances and economic implications made possible by WPI’s investments. For this project, I designed the foundations and did the site engineering and planning.

Just this week I will be starting my career! I will be working for Facility Engineering Associates (http://www.featpc.com/) as a Staff Engineer doing condition assessment in the Waltham office. The job includes some structural design, building inspection, and some planning. I also have a great opportunity to travel as we have a contract with the National Parks Service and a job down in Tampa along with several other offices! As there are two of us in a growing office, I feel fortunate to have found a position that offers great leadership potential. I also took the Fundamentals of Engineering exam in April, which is the first step to becoming a Professional Engineer. Grad school will come soon for both a Master’s in a technical area as well as an MBA.

My advice for those going to high school or college is to get involved. School work has to come first, but if you are diligent in that department it will be easy to take an active role on campus. There is so much to do at any age or grade level! If you don’t find something that interests you, there is usually support to start something you do feel passionate about. Leave where you are better than when you came; it’s something small we can all do to make a difference in the world around us.

Class of ’99

Jessica Stevens (TA ’04, RA ’05): I’m just finishing up my junior year at Georgetown, but have spent the past 5 months studying abroad in Madrid, Spain. It’s been an amazing experience, I definitely recommend studying abroad! I got to travel all around Spain, Italy, and Portugal. I’m actually still in Spain, but come home June 23. I’ll only be home for 5 weeks, so I’m going to waitess part time before I have to go back to school in early August. I’m going to be an RA for senior year for a floor of upperclassmen, mostly sophomores, which I’m really excited about! Even though I’m majoring in linguistics and Spanish, I’m taking a few courses next semester in natural language processing, or computational linguistics. I’m looking forward to them, since it’s getting me back into math and science a little bit. I’m thinking I might want to do something in that field after graduation, but still really have no idea what I want to do! Hope everyone is doing well!

Classes of ’00 and ’01

Carolyn Purington (TA ’04, RA ’06): I have had a busy sophomore year at Johns Hopkins University (JHU). I did research on the mechanical role of a gene which could be responsible for the contractions in the throat which lead to asthma in a lab at the School of Public Health. I also have been really busy with my group’s Engineers Without Borders project to build a children’s nursery in Ecuador. In May I spent 10 days in Ecuador presenting our project to non-profit groups and universities for funding, and also visiting the community and taking some engineering measurements. It was really rewarding to meet the community and the children that we are going to be helping in the next year.

Carolyn also recently got involved with a program at JHU for middle school girls and engineering: http://www.jhu.edu/~asme/readysetdesign/index.html. She wrote: “It’s no Camp Reach, but it was still a lot of fun!”

CONGRATULATIONS to everyone in the Camp Reach Classes of 1998 and 2002 who graduated from college or high school this year! Best wishes and please stay in touch!
Lisette Manrique (RA ‘01): Lisette was recently featured in the WPI publication, Transformations. She earned a B.S. and M.S. in Biomedical Engineering from WPI in 2003 and 2005, respectively. Her first job was with a medical device company, focusing on spine discography. She was then recruited to Codman & Shurtleff, a division of Johnson & Johnson, to lead an interdisciplinary team of more than a dozen people, developing a device to treat brain swelling. Just recently she started a new position with Covidien Sports Surgery, doing engineering/design work for knee and shoulder repair. She has also been featured on Engineer Your Life, a website created by WGBH for high school girls. (Check it out at www.engineeryourlife.org!)

Class of ’02

Nancy Boyd: I just graduated June 1st...finally! I’m going to the Houston Ballet Summer Intensive for six weeks this summer. Then I’m auditioning for ballet schools so that I can go to one of them year round. I don’t know which yet because it depends on who takes me. Best wishes to everyone in my Reach class as they leave high school for new things!

Brittany Garrett (TA ’06 ‘07): Hi girls! I have recently decided that I am going to North Carolina next year for college, at Elon University and I plan on studying International Business. This summer, I will probably be working a lot so that I can save money for college. I will be coming to the reunion though to see everyone! I’m graduating on June 13 and I am very excited about it. I hope all is well with everyone, and good luck with everything!

Tanya Hakim: (TA ’06 ’07, RA ’08): Hello everyone! This June, I graduated from high school! In a way, it is surreal that high school is over, but I am thrilled for the future. After a long and extensive college search and lots of thinking, I have decided to go to Smith College in the fall. I’m so excited! I will be participating in the STRIDE program at the college, where I will have the opportunity to work with a professor and also receive a stipend for my work. Smith has so much to offer, and I can’t wait to go off to school!

This summer, I’ll be returning to Camp Reach as an RA, which is awesome. I love the camp, and I can’t wait to meet the campers of 2008. Aside from that, I will probably be resting a lot, reading, and also doing some volunteer work. After working so hard in high school, it’s a great feeling to be able to just sit back a bit and enjoy the nice weather. Good luck to everyone, and I wish the best for all =)

Annie MacNeal: So much has happened since I was last at Camp Reach in 2002! This year I have earned my Girl Scout Gold Award, a 65 hour service project that she must make a lasting impact on your community. In order to complete this award, I created a theatre camp for Why Me & Sherry's House that helps families deal with childhood cancer. I gathered some students from Burncoat High School, as well as other volunteers from Doherty High School and Why Me and made them camp counselors for the week. We taught children ages 3-9 how to act; design sets, and have fun with costumes and props, so that they could perform a play at the end of the week. It was a wonderful success! I hope to take these memories along with me, as well as those that Camp Reach gave me, when I attend the University of Massachusetts Amherst in the fall. I will be studying Psychology there for 4 years, but after that I have plans to go on to seminary to become a minister of a United Methodist church. I want to "Reach" out to others and help change the world!

Christina Ouellette (TA ’06): These last few months have been extremely busy. In February, I began to hear back from colleges. During March, I traveled to Hartford, CT and Philadelphia, PA for FIRST Robotics Competitions. My team was awarded the Judge’s Award at both competitions for our unique design. In May, I took my final AP exams in Latin, Calculus, and English Literature. I was also awarded the National School Orchestra Award. After a hectic last 2 weeks of school, I finally graduated from Shrewsbury High School on Thursday, May 29th. I actually just returned from a weekend on Cape Cod with a few of my closest friends as an after-graduation vacation. Next year I plan to attend WPI, with a major in Biotechnology.

Class of ’04

Maggie Hughes: Hello all! Things will be wrapping up with school in just a couple of days now but I’ve been so busy (and still am!) that I can hardly enjoy it! I’ve completed my sophomore year with high honors. I was inducted into the national honor society. I finished up my AP US History course with high grades, as well as my other classes. But this isn’t it all for this school year. I’m visiting France for my second time now for almost the whole month of August this summer. I have a friend who lives there and we’ve been exchanging back and forth for four years now! I’m very excited! That’s it for me as of now but many more exciting things will hopefully soon come!

Robin Belisle (MST): Hello to all. Although it’s been several years since I’ve been on campus with Camp Reach, not a summer goes by without me recalling fond
memories of my experience. Hope the passing years have found the program as successful as when I was participating. From things I’ve heard from one of your more recent alumnae, my niece Rachel O’Connor, the program is doing well.

On a more personal note, I will be returning to WPI this summer to participate in another program. I have been selected, along with 6 other middle and high school Science and Math teachers, to participate in a WPI’s RET Bio-engineering Research program. As part of the program I will be spending 6 weeks working with Professors Pins and Gaudette on their study of bio-composite materials. I’m hoping that the research design skills I acquired at Camp Reach will serve me well.

Class of ‘05

Amy Mouradian: Hey Camp Reach! I’ve missed you all so much! I’ve been incredibly busy. My freshman year of High School was amazing! I got involved on Student Council and the school, newspaper, and I took voice lessons. All three recently paid off. I was selected for Art’s and Entertainment editor for next year for the newspaper, I recently sang two solos in a recital and I’m running for my class vice-president! So I’ve had a pretty busy year, and it looks like next year will be the same! My summer plans are extremely full also. I’m done with school on the 20th and on the 22nd I’m leaving for a week to sail on a boat from Boston to Plymouth, down through the Cape Cod Canal, to Martha’s Vineyard, then back up the coast of the Cape to Boston. I’m sooo excited! It’s a writing camp and we write stories and poems and make a movie, along with a bunch of other things! It’s probably just as cool as Camp Reach, just a different subject! When I return I’m working as an aide at the Church’s Religious Education camp for elementary kids for three weeks, and at the end of the summer I’m going to Cape Cod for two weeks. That’s about it for now, I hope everyone has a great summer and stays cool! See you at the reunion!!!

Ashley Racicot: Wow, it’s been a while since I’ve seen everyone! I am so sorry I missed the winter reunion... I had a show choir competition. Speaking of show choir, I’m actually pretty excited because I made the varsity and JV show choirs at my high school for next year!! So we already started rehearsals and I cannot wait for the next season to start. Especially since both show choirs and my chorus are travelling to Orlando to perform at the Hard Rock Arena next March!! I can’t wait for summer to start (I get out on Monday the 16th of June) and I can’t wait to see you all at the reunion!! See you soon!!

Julie Sargent: I hope all is well and everyone is getting excited for summer. This past year has been great. I ran for student council, and student advisory council. I was elected to be on both! This was really exciting and I can’t wait to get started next year. I also was chosen to represent my school at the START SLTP leadership conference, this was loads of fun, and I made some new friends and had a great time. I was even lucky enough to get tickets to the Tim McGraw country music festival. I went with my sister, my cousin and my aunt for a late birthday present. On June 21st I am testing for my second degree black belt in taekwondo, I can’t wait! I’ve also become a taekwondo instructor and get to teach classes. Finally, I am going to California for a week in July to participate in a leadership camp/seminar, which sounds like a lot of fun! I miss everyone and hope to see you all at the reunion in July!

Rachel Whaley: Hope everyone’s been doing well! This summer I plan on swimming, hanging out with friends, and going backpacking (once with my dad and then for a week at camp). I’m also doing Launch in August at WPI. Hope you all have a great summer and see you at the reunion!

Class of ‘06

Jenny Cox: So far my summer is going great! I got accepted into the Boston Children’s Chorus and am wicked excited about it! Rehearsals start in September. I am starting a new school in September, too. It’s in Boston, so hopefully I can see all you Camp Reach buddies more often! It’s gonna be a busy summer for me between writing classes, singing camp, and prep classes for school next year. But I’m definitely gonna make time for the beach, bike riding, and ice cream! Next year I plan on joining my school’s robotics team, and ballroom dancing. That should be really fun. I’m sorry to say, but I can’t go to this summer’s reunion :( But I will be thinking of all you guys and wishing you a happy rest of your summer!

Jess Desmond: Hey guys! I haven’t been able to talk to any of you that much! My year is going great. Last week, our grade went to Quebec, it was awesome! About 2 months ago, my dog, Sadie, got put down and about three weeks after that, we got a new dog and came up with the most original name; Yoda! She’s a black Schnauzer and a cross between a miniature and medium. My friends have also gotten me into reading a new series called “Twilight” by Stephanie Meyer. So far, I like them and they’re addicting, it’s only been a week, and I’ve finished the first two. Next week is our semiformal dance and then we have all our tests the next week until we get out on the 20th. For the summer, I plan on marching in the July 4th Parade (it’s a really big thing around here) with my friends in the Chelmsford High School marching band. I also plan on attending the
Wonders Program at WPI and Wyldlife Camp. I'm also going to go up north to the lake constantly all summer. ('Up north' means New Hampshire and 'the lake' means Lake Winnipesaukee.) I have a lot of friends and family a there and it's my favorite place on earth! I hope to talk to you guys soon!

Ellen Hedstrom: Hi guys!! I miss you all and I'm so sad I won't be able to see you this upcoming reunion. I'm going to another science and engineering program at Smith College this summer for four weeks! The school year is ending and I cannot wait to be heading to high school. Hopefully see you all soon!!

Class of '07
Kassandra Baptista: Hey Everyone. I have many fun and exciting plans for the summer time. I'm going to an overnight camp in Conn. for two weeks. I can't wait to go and do all sorts of things. My seventh grade year went by so fast, everything was awesome. All of my teachers and friends loved our ideas and all of the fun things that we did. School was over today June 12 I'm sad to be leaving until the 8th grade, but I'm ready for it.

Gabbie Bouyea: I can't wait to see you all again at the summer reunion! This summer is going to be lots of fun! I am going to Tennis Camp and Rock and Roll Camp. I will be volunteering at one of my local libraries. I am also going to be playing on a tennis team and going on vacation to Washington D.C., Baltimore, and a camping trip in Rhode Island with my family. My dance recital is on the weekend of Father's Day and then my dance year will be over. My school year ends on the 20th of June. My school year went really well and I hope to be able to spend lots of time with all of my friends over the course of the summer! I also hope to spend lots of time with my family and in my pool.

Meckila Britt: Hi! I just wanted to share what I've been up to. In the Fall I participated in Science Club for Girls. We worked with some women students from Olin College of Engineering. We had two teams competing to build a Rube Goldberg machine. It took four months on Saturdays. We learned how to design, build and test our machine. Our machine made lemonade. The highlight was in February, where we presented our Lemonade Rube Goldberg at the Boston Convention Center for the national conference of the Association for the Advancement of Science. That was a lot of fun and very exciting! This summer I'm off to Girl Scout Camp for an Iron Chef competition. Can't wait for the reunion next month!

Jess Maki: Hey Reach buddies. I'm in for a busy summer. I have like 2 weeks to myself the whole summer. First it's basketball camp, then off to Clinton for a week of camps, then 4H camp. (Right when I get picked up I have to rush to the reach reunion), then it's off to Washington D.C. to help in the soup kitchens and homeless shelters with my friends. Oh and to help with being so busy every week I'm not at a camp I'm going to be in Maine so this is going to be fun. Oh and not to mention spending every other second spending time with family and friends. I can't wait to see all of you guys at the reunion!!!!

Sandra Yu: Hey everyone! Hope things are going great. Not much has changed this year, the same things happened every day. I've become involved with my music, so hopefully I'll be able to do something with that. Can't wait to see you all soon.

Katarzyna Kocielska (Academic Coordinator '07): I am moving to California mid-June to start grad school in UC Davis! Maja and Artur are also coming along. We'll miss WPI very much, though!

Support for Camp Reach

Camp Reach in 2007 and 2008— both the two-week program and all of the alumnae activities— is made possible by donations from the following organizations and individuals who are committed to supporting young women and to diversifying our nation’s technological workforce. Together they have contributed more than $41,000 to keep tuition low for everyone and to provide additional financial aid to those with need. Our sincere thanks for your generous support!

3M Foundation
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