National Education, Outreach, and Training (EOT) Conference

The NISE held a conference for the executive groups of the San Diego National Partnership in Advanced Computational Infrastructure (NPACI) and the Illinois National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) in Madison on September 11-13, 1997. Forty participants worked to develop a common framework for the evaluation of Education, Outreach and Training activities across the PACI program.

NISE Retreat

The Team Leaders Team held a retreat on September 15, 1997, 5-9 p.m. The agenda of the retreat was to push forward the thinking on team projects for Years 4 and 5.

National Advisory Board Meeting

The NISE National Advisory Board met in Madison on October 14, 1997. National Advisory Board members (including scientists, education researchers, education practitioners, and representatives from business, industry, government, and foundations) met with members of NISE and an NSF representative and provided advice and recommendations on NISE’s work.

National Advisory Board Member Receives Recognition

The Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents is renaming the current University Library building (which will house the College of Education beginning next year) in honor of John Porter who serves as chair of the NISE’s National Advisory Board. Porter has spent his entire career devoted to Michigan public education, having served as a teacher, counselor, educational research consultant, director of the Michigan Higher Education Assistance Authority, associate superintendent and superintendent of the Michigan Department of Education, president of Eastern Michigan University, and interim superintendent of Detroit Public Schools.
**Professional Development Team’s Book**

The Professional Development Team’s book *Designing Professional Development for Teachers of Science and Mathematics*, by Susan Loucks-Horsley, Peter Hewson, Nancy Love, and Kathy Stiles, is receiving wide attention even before publication (Corwin Press, due in November). Thousands of copies have been purchased prior to publication by several professional associations including the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the National Staff Development Council. Statewide conferences in Texas and Minnesota will use the book as their focus and the National Science Foundation will distribute a copy to the director of each project that is designed to provide professional development for teachers.

**Professional Development Team Conference**

The Professional Development Team will be holding a working conference of teacher educators on November 14-15, 1997, in Washington, DC, to explore the nature of the gap between preservice and inservice, and to examine strategies that address this gap.

**Third Annual NISE Forum**

The NISE Third Annual Forum will be held in Washington, DC, on February 23-24, 1998. This year’s Forum will feature work of the NISE’s College Level One Team and the topic will be Effective Practices and Their Indicators in Reforming Postsecondary SMET Courses: Shapes of the Future. Participation is limited to 200 people. Forum proceedings will be produced and will be made available on the NISE Web site.

**Graduate SMET Education Conference**

The NISE is working with the NSF ad hoc Committee on Graduate Education and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Graduate School to plan a national conference on SMET graduate education. The conference is scheduled for spring 1998.
The Why Files Update

During the past several months, The Why Files has been restructured in response to the Communicating with Mass Audiences Team’s research on audience behavior. Recognizing that many people browsing the Web want to read shorter stories, the biweekly features have been trimmed and one-page stories, posted on alternate weeks, have been added. Unlike the feature stories, the one-page stories focus on a specific science discovery rather than the science behind the headlines. Research data has also been added to help readers navigate the site including an extensive “tour” section designed to help first-time Web users navigate the site. The Why Files Web site address is: http://whyfiles.news.wisc.edu. The Why Files continues to win awards and to be bookmarked at schools and homes across the globe.

Job Openings

The College Level One Team has openings for several Fellows interested in assessment issues in introductory undergraduate SMET education. Please refer to the NISE Web site for more information: http://www.wcer.wisc.edu/nise.

The NISE has an opening for an Information Processing Consultant to develop and maintain the NISE Web site and Structured Query Language (SQL) databases. Please see the Wisconsin Center for Education Research (WCER) Web site (http://www.wcer.wisc.edu) employment section for more information.

NISE Fellows Update

Jeanne Rose Century, Senior Research Associate at the Center for Science Education in Newton, Massachusetts, of the Strategies for Evaluating Systemic Reform (SESR) Team, visited the UW on October 27-29, 1997, to meet with SESR Team members and other UW faculty and staff. She will visit the UW again on December 11 and 12, 1997, to meet with authors of the forthcoming SESR book on the evaluation of systemic reform.

Chris Ohana, Science Resource Teacher at King Magnet School in Des Moines, Iowa whose work as NISE Fellow is being cosponsored by the NISE and the Exxon Education Foundation, will visit the UW on November 18, 1997, to meet with numerous NISE and UW faculty and staff.

Elaine Seymour is Director of Ethnography and Evaluation Research at the University of Colorado-Boulder. In her work as NISE Fellow on the College Level One Team, Seymour has been involved in soliciting and sorting student learning tools for the Web-based field-tested guide to student learning assessment. In addition, she is conducting a study on student learning retention and is assisting with the Third Annual NISE Forum.
Brown Bag Lecture Series

NISE Brown Bag Lectures are held once a month from noon to 1:00 p.m. in Room 259 of the Educational Sciences Building. On September 16, Uri Treisman from the University of Texas-Austin presented on “Reflections on the Theory and Practice of Systemic Reform.” The most recent lecture, “Scholarship: Revisited, Assessed and Developed,” was presented by Bassam Shakhashiri, Department of Chemistry, University of Wisconsin, on October 21. The following is the schedule of upcoming lectures:

November 18, 1997 Patrick Farrell, Jay Martin, Katherine Sanders, and Karen Thole of Creating a Collaborative Learning Environment (CCLE) at the UW, “Faculty Collaboration for Innovation in Engineering Education: Creating a Collaborative Learning Environment”

December 2, 1997 Katherine Sanders and Bob Skloot of CCLE, “Fostering an Informed and Constructive Conversation about the Peer Review of Teaching”

January 27, 1998 J. C. (Clint) Sprott, Professor of Physics, “The Wonder of Physics”