

\*\*This is a 2008 RT listserv message. Remember, if you want to respond to an individual, do not use the "Reply" button. Instead, use the "Forward" button and cut-and-paste the individual's email address in the "To" field.\*\*

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**2008 RT NEWS 1 – May 2, 2008**  
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**1. RT PROGRAM NEWS**

This is the **first edition** of the (generally) weekly email that the APS Education Office sends to Frontiers fellowship participants. This email is coming to you via an APS Listserv using the preferred email address you had indicated to Mel. These emails will serve as reminders of program information, deadlines, as well as provide hints and advice from former ("alumni") RTs, and let you know about science education news, opportunities, and resources for teachers and students.

**2. ASSIGNMENT #1**

We just postal mailed your **first Assignment packet**, including a notebook with tab dividers in which to store your paperwork. We can not stress enough the importance of holding on to these papers...especially the one with your **WISE Username and Password** (the label on page 9 of the Assignment #1 Instructions). You will build up and refer to this notebook all throughout the fellowship year. We apologize for the delay in sending this material out, and so the revised deadline for Assignment #1 is **Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**. Although we ordered a special gift (you'll see it listed on the letter in the Assignment package) a while ago, they are still on back order! We will send it out with your next Assignment.

**3. USING WISE, Web-based Inquiry Science Environment (<http://wise.berkeley.edu>)**

Details are found in your Assignment packet, along with your **WISE Username and Password** as a **STUDENT**. The WISE programmers recommend that you view the site using Mozilla's Firefox browser or Internet Explorer. **Ensure that your pop-up blocker is disabled, or that you allow permissions for the WISE website.** Below is a WISE Guide in case any of you are having trouble. Although you are welcome to preview any of the assignments, please **DO NOT work ahead** until the "Online Assignment Active" date indicated on your Assignment Deadlines calendar on the cover of your notebook. In our ongoing process of refining the Assignments, your work may be lost! When you sign into WISE to work on your assignments, the first screen of the student portal shows a tan/brown box with a "**Projects**" tab. This is the entrance into the "**2008 RT Assignments #1-7**" unit that you use to do your work.

**++++WISE GUIDE++++**

Some common problems on logging on or using the WISE website from UC Berkeley include:

- Not typing the URL correctly. Remember, there's no "www" and check your spelling of "Berkeley." Here's the URL <http://wise.berkeley.edu/>.
- Sometimes school fire walls do not allow access to WISE. Pop-up blockers can be a culprit, too. Have you tried a different computer (home or library)?
- The type of browser used. WISE definitely functions best when viewed with Microsoft Internet Explorer or Mozilla's Firefox.
- If the above suggestions do not apply or work, contact WISE directly. They are very responsive. Be sure to tell them that you're working with Marsha Matyas and Mel Limson at the APS - they know us well. Here's the email address [wise-info@wise.berkeley.edu](mailto:wise-info@wise.berkeley.edu). If you don't hear back from them within a few working days, please let Mel know.

- Occasionally, the WISE site itself is down for updates or has technical difficulties. If you've had success logging on in the past and run into errors, then just wait a couple of hours and try again.

#### **4. 2008 RT Website**

Your very own **2008 RT website** is up and running! The 2008 RT website is your "back pocket" guide to everything related to your Frontiers experience from deadline dates, to names and email addresses, to handouts for your assignments! Bookmark and add it to your favorite links:

<http://www.the-aps.org/education/2008rts/index.shtml>

Visit it regularly! We'll be adding things to it all through your fellowship year. Right now check out the following sections on the left side tabs:

- Home (our welcoming words)
- Teachers/Hosts (see how y'all span across the nation!)
- Expectations (a month-by-month overview of the fellowship activities and assignments, along with your full fellowship year calendar in pdf form on the bottom right, "Schedule and Deadlines"...you also received this in your Award Notification Packet)
- Listserv information (see the section below)
- Assignments (with a downloadable pdf for some details on assignments and deadlines).

#### **5. DEADLINES**

- **Monday, May 19:** Assignment #1: All your online WISE components (Activities #1-3) should be completed. You do not have to mail your poster to the APS Office. Instead, save it and bring it with you to the Science Teaching Forum in July!
- Monday, June 9: Assignment #2: You'll be receiving another packet in the mail soon.
- Monday, June 16: Travel Plans for Science Teaching Forum: More information will be forthcoming!

#### **6. LISTSERV INFORMATION**

- With Listserv software, we are sending this message to the entire group all at once. This Listserv has a unique address ([2008rts@lists.the-aps.org](mailto:2008rts@lists.the-aps.org)). When you send your message to that address, the Listserv software sends it out to EVERYONE on the list. If you "reply" to a Listserv message, it goes back to everyone, not just the person who wrote the original message.

- For your outgoing messages, be sure to check the "To" box before you hit "Send." If it says "Research Teachers" <[2008rts@lists.the-aps.org](mailto:2008rts@lists.the-aps.org)> then your message is going to the entire listserv. If you want to send to just one person, delete the address in the "To" box and cut-and-paste the individual's email address that you want to use.

- We hope you will use the 2008 RT listserv to share resources and ideas and to ask questions of your fellow RTs. Please take a minute to review the information about how this listserv works at the 2008 RT website: <http://www.the-aps.org/education/2008rts/listserv.shtml>. Also listed on this page are your fellow RTs' email addresses, as well as each of these weekly APS RT News in pdf form. If you would like another email address added to this list, please inform Mel Limson ([mlimson@the-aps.org](mailto:mlimson@the-aps.org)). If you wish to unsubscribe an email address, please follow the directions at the end of this message.

**As always, feel free to directly contact Mel ([mlimson@the-aps.org](mailto:mlimson@the-aps.org)) in the APS Education Office with questions, suggestions or concerns.**

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