

Abstract Submitted  
for the APR09 Meeting of  
The American Physical Society

**Girls' Science Investigations (GSI) New Haven: Evaluating the Impact**<sup>1</sup> CLAIRE KNODELL, BONNIE FLEMING, Yale University Physics Department — Girls' Science Investigations (GSI) New Haven seeks to empower the girls of today to shape the science of tomorrow. Funded by the NSF and Yale University and held at Yale, this program was designed to motivate, empower, and interest middle school girls in developing the skills required to pursue a career in science during a day-long investigation of the session's featured topic in science. Yale students and female professors act as mentors and guide younger girls through an environment for understanding and exploring various disciplines of science through hands-on activities in a laboratory setting. GSI strives to close the gap between males and females one action-packed Saturday at a time. This paper evaluates the success of the program. Student participant evaluations over the past 2 years coupled with student testimony and GSI coordinator, instructors', and volunteers' interviews allowed for an analysis of GSI's ability to inspire girls to pursue careers in science. The data indicates that a majority of girls who attended the program were more inclined to continue their study of science. The positive results are detailed in the following paper which points to the hands-on activities and enthusiasm of instructors as integral to the program's success.

<sup>1</sup>Funded by Yale and the National Science Foundation.

Claire Knodell  
Yale University Physics Department

Date submitted: 13 Jan 2009

Electronic form version 1.4