



NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement: The Association for Women in Science, Inc. (AWIS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the achievement of equity and full participation of women in all areas of science and technology.

NEWS

Letter from the President Janet White

The fall has always been my favorite time of year. The languid heat of summer is replaced by a cool nip in the morning air that reminds me it's time to go back to school, back to work and back to action. In the past month I've been very busy formulating plans. In September I traveled to Washington DC to lead a strategic planning workshop with the National AWIS Board. We developed a crisp articulation of National AWIS priorities and areas of focus as seen in the new mission statement:

"The Association for Women in Science is dedicated to achieving equity and full participation for women in science, mathematics, engineering and technology. We are a Network, a Resource, and a Voice."

From 2005 – 2010, we will focus on:

- Connecting, supporting and mentoring women in science at all levels
- Identifying areas of inequity and building awareness of the gap
- Nominating qualified women candidates for key positions in other organizations
- Influencing policy

We will do this by:

- Building coalitions among US women's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) committees and networks
- Leveraging the knowledge and experience of our members, chapters and broader network
- Gathering data on issues relevant to women in STEM and disseminating information and advice
- Leveraging our Washington DC location
- Building awareness of AWIS

Our goals for 2005 are:

- Achieve 85% annual membership retention and 10% total annual growth in membership by December 31, 2005
- Close the financial gap by June 30, 2005
- Have in place a website with accurate and timely content with 25% increase in hits by June 30, 2005

The National Board is a formidable group of senior, successful women! I really enjoyed working with them and have every confidence that they will lead AWIS forward with vigor and commitment along the new path that we defined.

As the largest chapter, there's a lot we can do to contribute to the success of AWIS. We can continue to increase our membership, we can each contribute financially toward National AWIS, which is something I have done and encourage you all to consider doing, too. Moreover, National AWIS is looking to chapters to take a lead

in outreach to K-12 girls in our local communities to encourage them to pursue science, and also for us to nominate women that we know for senior appointments and awards on a national level. Join me in ensuring that both National AWIS and AWIS-San Diego grow and thrive!

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Upcoming Events

Compiled by Barbara Armstrong

Events (open to all)

November 8: AWIS Open House. **Location:** Leichtag Building Lobby and Garren Auditorium at UCSD. **Time:** 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

For more information or to register, go to:

<http://awis.npaci.edu/shtml/events.shtml>

December: Social

January: Rules for Success

Strategy Sessions (for AWIS members only)

All Strategy Sessions take place at the Salk Institute, 10010 N. Torrey Pines Rd. from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Contact StrategySessions@hotmail.com for more information.

December 6: Strategies for Building Self-confidence
Registration for this event starts Monday, November 8, 2004 at: http://awis.npaci.edu/shtml/member_lounge_info.shtml. Contact StrategySessions@hotmail.com for more information.

February: Where do you want to be in five years?

AWIS Open House To Feature Communication Experts

By Julie Kinyoun

On Monday, November 8, 2004, the San Diego Chapter of AWIS will host an Open House at UCSD, which will begin in the Leichtag Building lobby at 6 p.m. The event is to introduce AWIS to potential members through motivational speakers, member recognition and networking. To kick off the evening, refreshments will be served while each AWIS committee hosts a booth with information about their activities and opportunities.

After participants enjoy refreshments and networking, everybody will walk to the Basic Sciences Building where the program will begin in the Garren Auditorium. First, awards will be presented to the most outstanding AWIS participants of the year. The awards will be followed by the keynote speeches. Kathi Diamant and Jenni Prisk, both employed in communications, will each give a motivational talk. Kathi Diamant is a former television host turned freelance writer who just published a book about the last lover in the author Franz Kafka's life, "Kafka's Last Love: The Mystery of Dora Diamant." Her talk will explain the long search for biographical information about Dora Diamant in whom she became interested over twenty years ago. Jenni Prisk, owner of Prisk Communication and Voices of Women, will inspire participants with a speech about risk-taking. In November, she will become the published author of a book called "Communication Training." The evening will conclude with a raffle and another opportunity to network.

Please join us on November 8 to celebrate and promote the activities of women in science in San Diego. For additional information or to volunteer on the night of the event, contact Ursula Kessen at ukessen@chem.ucsd.edu.

AWIS Member Sonya Summerour Clemmons Named One of San Diego's *40 under 40*

By Jessica Yingling

The San Diego Metropolitan, a monthly publication and daily webpage business report, sponsors an annual award honoring San Diego's young business leaders. This year is the fifth anniversary of the award that has recognized 200 local entrepreneurs. *40 under 40* began in 2000 to acknowledge the accomplishments of the younger crowd that are driving San Diego's economy, volunteering, and becoming the philanthropists of tomorrow. The San Diego Metropolitan wanted to recognize and encourage these leaders because too often awards are bestowed upon our veteran business and civic leaders. The honorees were presented at a luncheon that benefits Becky's House, a transition home for domestic violence victims.

The selection process began in May with a call for nominations. This year's judges were Dr. Abigail Barrow, past director of the UCSD Jacobs School of Engineering; Richard Cloward, manager of charter operations at Jimsair Charter; Scott Barnett, Barnett Consulting; Louise Torio, executive director of Historic San Diego Marketing & Consulting; and Judy Case DiPasquale, executive director of the YWCA of San Diego County. Award recipients were selected based on their dedication to improving life for everyone, something that is rooted in their compassion and concern

for others. This is seen in their career pursuits and volunteer efforts.

Sonya Summerour Clemmons became one of San Diego's *40 under 40* because of her perseverance and determination to go after a career that benefits medical patients and her desire to help others, especially women and minorities in scientific careers. She was the first African American woman to earn a doctorate in bioengineering at UCSD. Today, at 33, she is the director of business development at MediVas, a biotechnology company that acquires and develops novel biomedical products. MediVas' primary areas of development are vascular medicine and site-specific drug delivery. Clemmons works with pharmaceutical companies to bring their products, tissue engineering technology and medical devices to health care patients. She also contributes to Science Magazine through an advice column intended for minorities in science and engineering careers. Through this medium, Clemmons opened up a dialogue to find solutions to a system that inherently does not help minorities, especially women and people of color. Complementing this career plate, she also has a whole other dish filled with a family. Bravo, Sonya Summerour Clemmons, and best wishes for the coming years!

AWIS-San Diego Is On The Map

By Karin Lucas

On Wednesday, September 23, 2004, BioSpace unveiled the sixth Biotech Beach Hotbed Campaign at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club. The Biotech Beach map and the associated website have been produced by BioSpace for 11 years to highlight local biotech companies and non-profit organizations. I am very pleased to announce that for the first time AWIS-San Diego is on the map! The Biotech Beach map has become a San Diego institution and the addition of our organization is evidence of our growing reputation in the community. To view the map online, please visit <http://www.biospace.com/>

AWIS Volunteer Mixer & Leadership Workshop With Janice Trantham

By Janice Payne

Before you read on, take a moment to list the names of the six 2004 board members of the San Diego Chapter of AWIS. How many do you know? Did you know that within the San Diego Chapter there are 11 committees?

These questions, and many more, were answered at the first, and hopefully annual, AWIS Volunteer Mixer held at the Salk Institute on August 31. The event was organized by the Events and Strategy Sessions Committees. One attendee said, "I found the event very useful in getting to know the members of the San Diego Chapter and getting an appreciation of how much they do. The event also helped demystify the board for me and put a human face to them."

The evening began with Board member introductions by AWIS-SD President, Janet White. Presiding with Janet this year are Karin Lucas, Vice President; Anna-Maria Hays, Past President; Kathy Ogilvie, Treasurer; Tobey Tam, Secretary; and Rachelle Thompson, Educational Outreach.

The Committee chairs gave a brief overview of their activities and introduced volunteer members. The Events, Strategy Sessions and Outreach Committees organize member and non-member activities

within the Chapter. The Book and Movie Club is a social group that meets each month and alternates between book reviews and movie outings. The Public Relations Committee was recently formed to get press coverage of major AWIS events and increase visibility. The Newsletter informs members about Chapter activities, news and member interests. The Corporate Sponsorship Committee is a newly formed group chartered to perform fundraising for the chapter. The Scholarship Committee reviews applications and distributes funds to undergraduate and graduate women pursuing careers in science. The Website, Database, and Membership Committees carry out other vital Chapter functions.

The commitment of AWIS-SD members was even a surprise for our speaker, Janice Trantham, of Thumbs Up Performance. Trantham, who has over 20 years of experience teaching leadership skills, opened her presentation by noting that several AWIS members serve on more than one committee. Good leadership skills are essential to the success of AWIS committees. Topics covered by Trantham included meeting guidelines, decision-making and group dynamics.

To have an effective meeting:

- Have an agenda indicating the purpose of the meeting, who should attend, and time and place.
- Start and end on time.
- Encourage participation and listen to ideas of attendees.
- Evaluate the meeting at the end to determine what needs improvement.

How should decisions be made? AWIS bylaws recommend the "majority rules" form of voting, which can be done by a simple show of hands. Another decision-making option is consensus building in which all members agree on the final decision.

A small group exercise completed the evening by allowing attendees to test their interaction skills and discuss issues relevant to AWIS. Many thanks to the Events and Strategy Sessions Committees and to our speaker, Janice Trantham, for a very productive evening.

Strategy Session Bridges the Gender Divide

By Valerie Uzzell
Strategy Sessions Committee

On October 4, the AWIS Strategy Sessions Committee held a workshop entitled "Gender Differences in the Workplace." For this unique workshop, AWIS members were encouraged to invite male guests, and a number of brave men attended. Led by Strategy Sessions Committee member Helen Chen, male and female participants considered their workplace behavior, as well as their expected reactions to difficult work situations. Each group then discussed whether any gender differences in behavior or reactions existed. Some differences in work behavior were apparent between the men and women present. For example, the men were somewhat less disturbed by an unresponsive colleague than the women, and the men were somewhat more willing to speak to the boss to avoid an unpleasant assignment. However, the gender differences in work behavior were small, relative to the large variability in responses within each gender.

Toward the end of the workshop, men and women separated into groups and confronted a specific work scenario, reminiscent of an episode of the TV show "The Apprentice." In the scenario, each of us had just been assigned to lead an unfamiliar team on an unfamiliar project. Although most of us agreed on the need to

appear confident and in control to the new team, disagreements arose on how to deal with an unproductive team member who risked endangering the project. About half of us wished to talk to the person to see what was wrong before doing anything drastic. The other half recommended the ax. Again, the main differences appeared to correlate less with gender than with our personal experiences in the workplace. By the end of the workshop, it was clear that gender differences in workplace behavior, at least for the participants present, were less than we might have imagined. Perhaps men and women in the workplace may not have far to go to reach common ground.

FEATURES / OPINIONS

Member Profile: Jenafer Evans, New Chair of Scholarship Committee

By Hima Joshi

Jenafer Evans made her first contribution to AWIS long before she became a member. She was in a case study conducted by AWIS at the University of Virginia, her undergraduate institution. Years later, after she completed her bachelor's degree in chemistry, her Ph.D. in physiology and pharmacology at the University of Florida, and her postdoctoral work at Johns Hopkins, she found her way to AWIS again.

A friend from Johns Hopkins met AWIS-San Diego member Natalie Schiller at a conference and suggested that Evans contact her when she moved to San Diego a year ago. So, Evans looked up Schiller, did some research on AWIS-San Diego, paid her membership dues, and immediately began taking advantage of what AWIS-SD had to offer. She found out that AWIS-SD made arrangements for new members to meet current members, so she set up a lunch meeting with member Jodi Connolly. Evans didn't know too many people in San Diego at the time, and "it meant so much to [her] to have something to do." Evans also attended Strategy Sessions and became involved with the Scholarship Committee, which was chaired by her co-worker at Isis Pharmaceuticals, Fran Putkey.

Soon after she joined the Scholarship Committee, Evans became immersed in the process of selecting the 2004 AWIS-SD scholarship winners. She thoroughly enjoyed reading the scholarship applications. "I like learning about...different things that are tangentially related to what I already know," she says. She was very impressed with a particular clinical psychology lab that studied eating disorders. "The nature of their research had such an impact on people's lives," she observes.

As the new chair of the Scholarship Committee, Evans hopes to get more people involved. She feels that the Scholarship Committee embodies "the mission of AWIS at a fundamental level." If our chapter had unlimited funds, Evans would want to give AWIS-SD memberships as awards to people in the community "who exemplify AWIS ideals." "It would [also] be nice to have an award for postdoctoral fellows," she says.

Evans wants to rise to the challenge of getting our scholarship recipients more involved in AWIS. "It's probably intimidating to go to a meeting with all these professional women who don't have to worry about having an exam the next day," she says. But, she believes that AWIS is a great resource for high school students and undergraduates. She wishes she had known about AWIS earlier. "Maybe I would have [learned] about intellectual property careers," she says.

Evans was first exposed to the field of intellectual property in graduate school when she consulted with a patent advisor regarding the findings she reported in her thesis. Evans knew she wanted to end up in industry because she likes teamwork and problem solving. She enjoys writing patents for the same reason she likes reviewing scholarship applications. She gets to read about new and interesting science. She also has the chance to see science from a different perspective. "I'm definitely enjoying learning more about the business of science," she says. "It's opened my eyes to a lot of career paths that I didn't know about."

When she is not busy with AWIS and her job at Isis, Evans works on the landscaping and decorating challenges that come with owning a new home. "I'm usually digging stuff up in my yard and planting new stuff," she says. "I hesitate to call myself a runner," however, Evans runs around her North County neighborhood for exercise, and she wants to get back into tennis.

In the year that Evans has been in San Diego, she has quickly become an integral part of AWIS and the local scientific community. We wish her the best of luck with her work, and we look forward to seeing more great things from the Scholarship Committee.

Putting the Strategy Sessions to Work

By Siobhan Malany

"Your approach needs to be like a man's," my colleague says to me after I tell her I don't feel I am making headway in my one-on-one research discussions with my supervisor, the department director. "It has only taken me many years in the department to figure that out." We share a laugh together; but her point hits me hard.

Do women tend to be too passive and too compromising when discussing ideas with their superiors? Are men more effective at getting their ideas across? Is being too cooperative or overly agreeable a common weakness that women share?

I have covered many a Strategy Session for the AWIS newsletter. My articles have covered sessions about mentoring, negotiating, speaking for success and tapping into your creativity. All of these sessions have been enlightening to me. I have, however, struggled to put the strategies into action at work. I have been a scientist at my current company for over a year and I've realized that I am evaluated now more than ever in my career. As a graduate student and as a postdoctoral fellow, I was my biggest evaluator and in charge of my own destiny in many ways. Now, it's imperative that I not only meet quarterly goals but also go beyond them.

One of my goals has been to implement a system that I developed in the Pharmacology Department. After nine months and a series of proposals to the director, I realized that we were no closer to committing a plan to action. We had only successfully discussed the logistics full circle. I called on another female colleague and group leader. I asked her what her approach is in getting her ideas across to upper management. Her response was, "I go in with bullet points and tell him/her what I am doing and plan to do. If I want input, I'll ask for it; otherwise, I state the direction I am taking."

At a recent department Principal Investigator meeting, a senior-level scientist stated that he had discussed this system [of mine], the impact it is currently having and the goals to be met. He was blunt, direct, and even argumentative. He was heard. "Great, you are the man for that," responded the Senior Director with

enthusiasm. I walked out of the meeting having had a revelation. I've learned that research meetings with a supervisor, are not discussions with a mentor. They are negotiations. It is not enough to communicate ideas. If I need to meet my goals and I stand behind my ideas, then I need to use active language, even show overconfidence when necessary, fight to get my ideas heard, and gain the support and commitment to take something to the next level. The day after that meeting, I set up a time with the Senior Director. I went with bullet points, proven results, and a course of action. I didn't ask for input. I asked for commitment. And, I got it.

Politics, Science and Stem Cell Research:

Proposition 71

By Shermali Gunawardena

On November 2, California voters will get the opportunity to play a pivotal role in medical and scientific research. Proposition 71, a rebellious but bold initiative with great potential, will put the state of California at the forefront of stem cell research (<http://www.voterguide.ss.ca.gov/propositions/prop71-title.htm>). Cited as the "California Stem Cell Research and Cures Act," the Proposition supports stem cell research at UC campuses.

Stem cells are special cells, found in embryos of both animals and humans, which have the ability to develop into essentially any type of body cell (pluripotent). Stem cell research represents the last best hope of a cure for a myriad of complex diseases such as diabetes, Alzheimer's disease and AIDS, because stem cells can be 'programmed' to become any kind of cell. These diseases occur due to the breakdown of cells and "stem cells are the raw material that can repair damaged cells or organs," says Dr. Lawrence Goldstein, a UCSD professor of cellular and molecular medicine, who worked with other scientific advocates to write Proposition 71.

Stem cell treatments have been very successfully used on mice for over 20 years, and recent studies indicate their great potential to combat human diseases. Transplanting insulin-producing islet cells into diabetic patients has been successful in treating Type 1 diabetes. The downside of this treatment has been the need to use immunosuppressive drugs and the fact that three donors were needed to treat one patient. These problems could be eliminated if islet cells, obtained by differentiation of stem cells, were to be used.

In Utah, patients will soon get revolutionary stem cell transplants which could regenerate and rebuild their failing hearts. Scientists at the Arizona Heart Institute recently announced that they plan to inject skeletal muscle cells directly into patients' hearts. They hope that these muscle cells will regenerate and rebuild the dead portion. If this works, patients will not need heart transplant, and their own hearts will repair themselves.

Scientists believe that pluripotent cells could be used to eliminate the need for donors and immunosuppressive drugs. Indeed, there is promising work which suggests that stem cells can be directed, perhaps "programmed" to form islet cells or skeletal muscle cells, but there is still a great need to fully understand and figure out how to tell the stem cells to become different cells. This cannot be accomplished without more research, or without funding.

The stem cell debate dawned with President Bush's speech on August 9, 2001, when Bush placed embryonic stem cell research at the leading edge of a series of moral hazards, linking it to human

cloning for spare parts, and prohibited federal funding of research using stem cell lines derived after August 9. As of September 1, 2003, there are 12 human embryonic stem cell lines that federally supported researchers can purchase (<http://stemcells.nih.gov/>). Although current California law permits research using stem cells obtained from human embryos and persons who have already been born, the federal ban has restricted scientists by limiting research to a few lines that are actually usable (7 out of the 12), thus, slowing down and almost preventing critical scientific and medical research from progressing.

Now California has opted for change. Simply stated, Proposition 71, if passed, will authorize the state to sell \$3 billion in general obligation bonds to provide funding for stem cell research and research facilities in California. A new state medical research institute will be established to use the bond funds to award grants and loans for stem cell research and research facilities, and to manage stem cell research activities funded by this measure within California. According to Goldstein, the initiative will also play an important role in retaining and attracting stem cell researchers to California.

A large part of the political controversy is due to the fact that cells (from blastocysts) enlisted for research are often called embryonic stem cells, and essentially the stem cell debate comes down to a discussion of when life begins. "When people say embryonic stem cells, which is really a misnomer, they think of hands and feet, but this is not what this is. These blastocysts are simply a ball of 100-200 cells, smaller than a period on this page," explains Goldstein.

Although for the past 10 years, frozen blastocysts have been routinely destroyed during IVF (in-vitro fertilization), some religious groups cite moral objections to destroying these while extracting stem cells, saying that a blastocyst is a human being with the same rights as anyone else. "I'm at a loss to explain this logic," says Goldstein. "These are cells and blastocysts remaining after IVF that will be discarded anyway, because there are only a limited number of options for these unused blastocysts." "The question is then, what do we do with them [unused blastocysts]? Are we going to try to use these cells to benefit someone, or are we just going to destroy them with no benefit whatsoever?" asks Goldstein.

So let's take a stand! Vote YES on 71 and save the life of someone you love. As a society, we have a moral and ethical obligation to pursue this potentially life-enhancing science. Proposition 71 gives California the opportunity to fund another crucial area of medical technology, and California has long been a leader in biotechnology. For more information visit <http://www.curesforcalifornia.com/>.

Shermali Gunawardena is a postdoctoral scientist in the laboratory of Dr. Lawrence Goldstein.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of AWIS.

Finding Peace on the Tahoe Rim Trail

By Sharon Cherf

I'm a hiking enthusiast. I enjoy car camping, tent camping, and backpacking. My longest backpacking trip was four days in Yosemite National Park. Starting in Tuolumne Meadows, we hiked approximately 30 miles to the valley floor.

But my most ambitious backpacking trip was yet to come. On September 4, 2004, my husband, myself and two other couples

hiked the Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT). The TRT officially opened in September 2001. To date, fewer than 350 people have officially completed the trail. The highest peak on the trail is approximately 10,300 feet. The average elevation is about 8,500 feet.

We completed the 165-mile trail in 12 days. If Lake Tahoe is like a clock, we started at about five o'clock and hiked clockwise around the lake. It was physically and mentally challenging. We averaged 10-hour days covering about 14 miles a day. The shortest day was nine miles, and the longest was 20.5 miles. My backpack weighed about 30-40 pounds, depending on how much water I was carrying. After reaching the 100-mile mark, my left leg muscle began to cramp, clearly from overexertion. I had to retrain myself to use my right leg to step up on boulders and to be the more dominant leg going up steep, mountain passes.

Encountering day hikers on the trail was mentally challenging. We'd stop to talk briefly. They'd tell us where they were from and where they were going for the day. Then they would mention that they were going to the bar for dinner and drinks. I must admit I certainly had thoughts of following them and hiking back into town. Electricity, running water, and real food were some things that I now only dreamed about and had forgotten what it was like to experience.

One of the strangest things that happened on the hike was that my sense of smell became more acute. When day hikers would pass us on the trail, I could smell their "clean" smell and the smell of detergent. The longest we went without a shower was six days; I tried not to get too close to day hikers. If I could smell them, I was sure they could smell me!

This was an experience of a lifetime. I'm glad I did it. I would do it again, but only with my husband and the same group of people. My husband and I learned to work together as a highly efficient team. We would set up camp and make dinner in less than 15 minutes. Hmmm. I wonder why we don't have that same efficiency back at home. My husband showed me his chivalrous side. He was always trying to off-load weight from my backpack and was always carrying extra water for later. Going with a group of good friends whom you trust with your life and who enjoy the same adventures can make or break a trip. I feel very fortunate that we have friends like these in our lives and got to experience the TRT together.

Undoubtedly, it was a humbling experience. The long days of hiking gave me many opportunities to reflect and meditate. I gained more respect for water, sunshine, and our early ancestors. I felt rejuvenated and inspired. I was able to work out many issues and problems that I had left behind. Most of the time, the resolutions were that these problems were not really problems at all. I learned that I wanted my life to be more simplistic.

The spectacular views that can only be seen from the trail were breathtaking. I took over 500 photos. Perhaps, I was also hoping to capture what I was feeling at that moment. I didn't want to lose or forget the places I had visited physically and spiritually. Now that I'm back home, when I want to feel like that same person on the trail, I look at my photos and remind myself of where I have been. In one of my journal entries, I wrote, "I feel whole. I feel complete. Life is good."

Sharon Cherf is a Programmer Analyst at Qualcomm, Inc.

DEPARTMENTS

Your Two Cents

Compiled by Hima Joshi

Questions from last time:

Have you ever made a drastic career change? If so, how did you know that it was the right thing to do?

Response:

I'm in the process of a drastic career change. After spending a bunch of years as a Ph.D. cell and molecular biologist in drug discovery, I'm back in graduate school in my forties and getting a master's in public health, focusing on epidemiology and infectious diseases. Although I'm currently "on sabbatical" (my euphemism for unemployed), I knew I made the right choice when I found myself happily (yes, HAPPILY) writing a mid-term and realized I'd never met an infectious disease I didn't love to read about. My brain seems to be adding new wrinkles every day. - Isabel Corcos

Question for next time:

What is your favorite local restaurant and why?

We would like to publish your responses to these questions in the next Newsletter! Please reply to Hima Joshi (hjoshi@san-diego.edu). **Note:** Unless you indicate that you would like to remain anonymous, your name will be included with your response.

AWIS Book and Movie Club News**Announcing New AWIS Book and Movie Club Co-chairs: Amy Cullinan and Alice Budai**

The AWIS Book and Movie Club gives AWIS members a chance to socialize and network in an informal environment. We meet once a month on Thursday evenings, and we alternate between movies and books. We are interested in fiction and non-fiction. Some of our movies and books are about science. Others are about historical events, sociology, philosophy, travel, and life in general. Our next book meeting will be on November 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. at The Scripps Research Institute in the Beckman Building second floor conference room. We will discuss "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time." For more information or to RSVP, e-mail Amy Cullinan (cullinan@scripps.edu) or Alice Budai (alicheliz@gmail.com). Enjoy the following review of our most recent movie:

Movie Review: "The Door in the Floor"

By Hima Joshi

A well-known children's author (played by Jeff Bridges) places an ad for a summer assistant. The high school student who accepts the job spends most of his time idling in the sunshine and trying to figure out his role in a household that is coming apart at the seams. The death of their two sons has driven a wedge between the writer and his wife (played by Kim Basinger). Their four-year-old daughter, who was born after her brothers died, walks around the house telling stories about the photographs of her brothers that cover the walls.

"The Door in the Floor" was adapted from the John Irving novel "A Widow for One Year." Irving (author of "The World According to Garp" and "The Cider House Rules") has a gift for portraying a relationship gone awry in an honest, transparent way that makes it difficult to point fingers or assign blame. The actors in this movie and director Tod Williams share Irving's gift. They present the characters and their emotions with no hint of judgment or analysis. Many of the Book and Movie Club members felt that it was easy to sympathize with all of the characters and to really care about what happened to them.

The members of the Book and Movie Club speculated about the roles of the author and his wife in the death of their sons. We also discussed the extent to which each character was responsible for the events that took place in the film. This movie generated a lot of interesting discussion about life choices, people's reactions to death, and the nature of relationships. The Book and Movie Club gave it an overall rating of 3.5 out of 5 stars.

AWIS-San Diego Chapter Welcomes New Members:

By Emily Leong

Katie Anders	Healthcare Communications Group
Lei Fang	
Anne M. Fourie	Johnson & Johnson PRD
Cheryl Laskowski	
Susan L. Nguyen	San Diego State University
Lilia Nunez	Cornell University
Marjorie Price-LaFace	Pfizer – La Jolla
Mary A. Tichi	Ambio, Inc.

AWIS Member News

In this section of the Newsletter, we report on the accomplishments (new jobs, promotions, awards, publications, etc.) of AWIS-SD members. If you have any news to report, send it to [Julie Kinyoun \(julieawissd@yahoo.com\)](mailto:julieawissd@yahoo.com), and write "AWIS member news" in the subject heading.

Dr. Susan Forsburg, former AWIS-SD Board member, has been elected AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) Fellow! Forsburg is currently a professor at USC.

Julie Kinyoun was awarded a CASW (Council for Advancement of Science Writing) fellowship to attend the New Horizons in Science Briefing in Arkansas.

About the AWIS Newsletter

The AWIS Newsletter is published six times per year and provides AWIS members and supporters with information on Chapter activities, career development, and issues related to women in science. The Newsletter is free to AWIS members. The subscription rate for non-members is \$20 a year.

November/December Newsletter staff:

Janice Payne	Hima Joshi	Shermali Gunawardena
Julie Kinyoun	Siobhan Malany	Joanne Mullen
Barbara Armstrong	Sumita Anant	Alice Budai
Jessica Yingling		

Send news items and comments to Barbara Armstrong via e-mail: baawis@nethere.com; or AWIS, PO Box 178096, San Diego, CA 92177-8096. If you would like your article to be included in the next issue, please submit it by December 3, 2004.

Moving? Address Change?

Please notify us of your new address so you won't miss our mailings! Please log onto our new membership update page <http://awis.npaci.edu/html/login.html> using your AWIS-San Diego username and password. If you have not yet received a username and password, or have misplaced them, please e-mail sdawis@san.rr.com. If necessary, you can also mail your updated information to: AWIS - San Diego, PO Box 178096, 92177-8096.

To post jobs in the AWIS newsletter, contact Natalie Schiller at nschil@cox.net, or AWIS PO Box: 178096, San Diego, CA 92177-8096 for details. Deadline for inclusion in the next AWIS newsletter is December 3, 2004. If submitting by snail mail, include the words "ATTN: Natalie Schiller" on the bottom left corner of the envelope.

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