

NEWSLETTER

Association for Women in Science

- San Diego Chapter -

AWIS CALENDAR

January 16 (Thurs) -- "Power Structures: Understanding Them and Making Them Work for You," mentoring workshop co-sponsored with GWIS, 6:30 p.m. at the University of San Diego, Alcalá Park.

February -- Tour and lecture at the Natural History Museum, 6:30 p.m. (date to be announced)

March -- "Speaking With Authority," mentoring workshop co-sponsored with GWIS, 6:30 p.m., SDSU.

April -- "Solving Crime With Technology," speaker from the Sheriff's Crime Lab, 6:30 p.m. (date and location to be announced)

May -- Presentations by AWIS 1991 Science Fair winners, Salk Institute, 6:30 p.m. (date to be announced)

AWIS IN THE NEWS

The AWIS Mentoring Grant was highlighted in an article entitled "Mentoring: A Time-Honored Tradition Changes Over Time" (*The Scientist*, October 28). AWIS president **Stephanie Bird** and AWIS executive director **Catherine Didion** are quoted throughout the article.

SCIENCE FAIR

AWIS is one of 70 professional organizations, societies, and businesses who each year present special awards of merit during the Greater San Diego Science Fair. Volunteers are needed to serve as AWIS judges. This requires only a half-day commitment on April 1 (9:30 a.m. to Noon). To volunteer or for additional information, contact **Peg DeRose** at the Salk Institute (453-4100 ext. 551).

SCIENCE CAMP-IN

The fifth annual science camp-in for 7th and 8th grade junior high school girls will take place on the weekend of April 25 and 26 at the Reuben H. Fleet Space Theater and Science Center. Women scientists are sought as role models/chaperons as the students are taken on behind-the-scenes tours of museums in Balboa Park, hear from guest speakers, and spend the night in the Science Center. If you're interested in participating in this worthwhile (and fun) event, contact **Lynne Kennedy** at 238-1233.

1991 MARIE CURIE AWARD

Linda K. Olson, associate professor of clinical radiology and associate chief of the department of radiology at the UCSD School of Medicine, has been selected as the 1991 recipient of the American Association of Women Radiologists' (AAWR) Marie Curie Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of radiology.

In a letter nominating her for the award, Olson was described as a dedicated teacher and tireless worker, spending long hours with residents and medical students. In 1987 she was a runner-up for the Kaiser Excellence in Teaching Award from the Senior Class of the UCSD Medical School and is the winner of the Silver Spoon Award for Teaching Excellence from UCSD radiology residents.

She directs a mammography service at UCSD and is dedicated to teaching women about the importance of early detection of breast cancers. She often speaks at public forums about mammography and breast cancer.

Twelve years ago, Olson lost both legs and an arm in an accident in Europe. She took a year off for rehabilitation before continuing her residency and completing a fellowship in computed tomography. She joined the UCSD faculty 1982 (source: UCSD press release).

NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO TALKS SCIENCE

A two-hour, call-in program devoted to understanding science made its debut last month on National Public Radio. The show, to be broadcast every Friday afternoon, is one segment of a new NPR series called "The Talk of the Nation," which is on the air every weekday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Friday science segment, broadcast from New York and taking calls from around the U.S., is hosted by **Ira Flatow**, former NPR science correspondent and host of the public television series "Newton's Apple." The show's toll-free number is 800-989-TALK. Tune in!

MEMBER NEWS

Amy Percy has joined Amylin Corporation as a senior staff scientist in the company's immunochemistry lab.

NSF EXCELLENCE PRIZE AWARDED TO UCSD STUDENT

Amara Siva, an 18-year-old American Indian biology student at UCSD has been awarded an Incentive for Excellence Prize from the National Science Foundation. The prize carries with it a \$1,000 cash award.

NSF has presented the award annually since 1987 with the goal of increasing "the opportunities for outstanding under represented minority students to pursue advanced studies in the sciences, mathematics and engineering."

Under represented minorities include: American Indian, Black, Hispanic, Native Alaskan (Eskimo or Aleut) or Native Pacific Islander (Polynesian or Micronesian).

Siva, who took several advanced placement courses for college credit, will have enough credits for junior standing after the end of the fall quarter. She will major in biochemistry/cell biology.

CAREER CORNER

Take this self-help quiz and evaluate your prospects should you need to find a new job.

1. How can I most effectively take charge of the "job change" process?
2. Is my list of career or job interests and values still valid?
3. How well do I know my technical field? How can I learn more?
4. What do I really know about networking? How do I plan to do it?
5. What is my plan if my employer tells me it no longer requires my services?
6. How do I take inventory of my skills, knowledge, interests and values?
7. What other parts of my institution (or company) use my knowledge and skills?
8. When was the last time I talked with my supervisor about my performance, prospects for future assignments and job priorities?
9. How am I handling work and personal development objectives?
10. What are the prospects for individual outplacement services if my supervisor tells me my services are no longer required?

Networking is at the top of the list for managing job change. Develop, nurture and sustain your network of contacts on an on-going basis -- don't wait for rumors of upcoming staff cuts. That's something hard to do, given day-to-day job responsibilities, but eight out of ten times it will be someone you know who will lead you to your next job.

Go Out Positively

If you are "terminated," you are still an experienced, competitive professional. How you go out is as important as how you came in. Take these positive steps when leaving an employer:

- Listen. Ask questions aimed at understanding exactly what is happening.
- Ask for key "letters of understanding" detailing transition benefits, such as benefit plan entitlement and outplacement assistance.
- Note dates when important decisions have to be made, such as benefit plan conversion dates and election requirements. List names and telephone numbers to use for references.
- Make a list of the names and telephone numbers of every individual who knows the work you perform, your employer and your field. This will come in handy in your networking efforts.

Do's and Don'ts:

- Do talk and act professionally
- Do depart on friendly terms
- Do think how you will handle the matter of job references
- Do take charge of your transition
- Don't tell people you are unhappy, fired or quitting
- Don't mail resumes before you are prepared to answer hard questions about what you really want to do
- Don't answer classified ads before you are prepared to say what you want
- Don't assume you must look for the same type of work. Other opportunities might suit your objectives equally well
- Don't disclose your salary unless you are confident it is competitive for the work you perform and for your career goals

(source: *Public Relations Journal*, October 1991)

TAX TIP

Job-hunting expenses are deductible even if you don't get a new job. And house-hunting expenses related to a business move are deductible even if you don't find a house during a particular trip (source: IRS Publication 17, *Your Federal Income Tax*).

SCIENCE GRANT TO AID MINORITIES AT SDSU

SDSU has won a \$1 million grant to encourage minorities to enter the field of biomedical research.

The NIH grant will allow minority students to conduct research in biology, chemistry and related biomedical fields.

"They're not just an extra pair of hands," said Vernon Avila, an SDSU biology professor and director of the program. "They'll be working on research projects of their own creation."

During the three-year program, seven undergraduate and seven graduate students will team up with professors and each earn an annual salary of \$6,000 to \$7,500.

The \$1 million will cover the cost of the salaries as well as supplies, travel, faculty stipends and overhead costs tied to the upkeep of laboratory and office space.

Educators have grown increasingly concerned about the dearth of minorities majoring in science.

One reason for the lack of minorities is believed to be the lack of role models in such fields. In addition, many minorities hold jobs outside of school that make it tougher to meet the rigorous demands of research work.

According to the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, only about seven percent of the doctorates in science awarded last year went to minorities, including Asians, Hispanics and blacks.

MACARTHUR FUNDS ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, through its World Environment and Resources Program, funds research aimed at increasing scientific and popular understanding of the function, extent and value of tropical biotic systems.

Eligible areas of study include biological inventories, biogeographic studies, ecological research, natural resource management, endangered species recovery programs, conservation education, design and protection of new wildlife reserves, and policy studies to measure the impact of human activities on tropical biotic systems.

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. For more information, contact World Environment and Resources Program, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, 40 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60603 (312) 726-8000.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Q. After an eclipse, which planet is bigger: the earth of the moon?

Q. I missed yesterday's eclipse. Where can I see it today?

Did you laugh at these questions? The Reuben H. Fleet Science Center received hundreds of calls for information and thousands more jammed the Fleet Center to witness last July's solar eclipse. At the November meeting, Lynne Kennedy, director of educational programs, presented an overview of the Fleet Science Center's educational mission

to AWIS members and several members of the San Diego Science Educators Association. "We're glad that people call us," she said. "Given the number of phone calls and visitors we get whenever an event like an eclipse takes place, it shows we're meeting a critical public need."

But these types of questions reflect a lack of knowledge about the everyday world. "They tell us that many people do not understand science or how important science and technology are in their daily lives," Kennedy said. "That's why the educational activities we offer are so important."

Kennedy, who started the education department back in 1981, says the philosophy is to create "hands-on" exhibits rather than install static displays.

Workshops for teachers and students include such intriguing titles as the "Science of Rock 'n Roll," "Crime Lab Science," "Puzzles, Pictures and Symmetry," and "Light Fantastic." Combine these with space theater shows, after school programs, "suitcase science" visits to area schools, lecture series, and special programs and it's evident why the Reuben H. Fleet has developed into a leading science education institution.

An exciting addition to the educational program will be the opening in 1992 of the Challenger Learning Center, part of a growing network of centers nationwide being established in memory of the crew of the Space Shuttle Challenger tragedy. San Diego has the distinction of being the only city west of Houston, Texas designated for installation of a permanent Challenger Learning Center.

The Challenger Center will use a realistic Mission Control mock-up and a 21st century Space Station simulator to transport teams of students on a simulated voyage. About 10,000 students from San Diego County and City schools are expected to participate in the Challenger Center program during the 1992 school year.

The Challenger Center will be temporarily installed at the Parkway Middle School in La Mesa pending its ultimate relocate to Balboa Park as part of a proposed major expansion of the Fleet Science complex.

The AWIS-San Diego newsletter is published bi-monthly and provides AWIS members and supporters with information on chapter activities, career-enhancement opportunities, and issues related to women in science. The newsletter is free to AWIS members; subscription rate for non-members is \$20 a year. Send news items and suggestions to Lynne Friedmann, Editor, 168 Solana Point Circle, Solana Beach, CA 92075 or call (619) 793-3537. Deadline for the next newsletter is February 10.

JOB BOARD

POSITION AVAILABLE

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES: Assistant Professor, tenure-track, faculty position starting August, 1992. Seek Ph.D. in Physics, Energy and Resources, Engineering, or other relevant Physical Science or interdisciplinary technically-based program emphasizing the application of the physical sciences to problems of society and energy resources. Desired specialty: Renewable energy resources. International and cross-cultural experience as it relates to energy resources is also desirable. Apply with letter of application, curriculum vitae, graduate school transcripts, and names of three references postmarked or FAXed by January 17, 1992 (transcripts may follow) to Professor Gary A. Klee, Chair, Environmental Studies Search Committee, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA 95192-0116. FAX number (408) 924-5303. Applicant may request complete Position Announcement, (408) 924-5450. San Jose State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.