

NEWSLETTER

Association for Women in Science

- San Diego Chapter -

SAN DIEGO WOMEN OF THE YEAR IN SCIENCE

Congratulations to AWIS member **Rosemarie Johnson** and UCSD pre-med student **Natasha Raney** named 1992 Women of the Year in Science by the *San Diego Women's Times*! The dual award was given in recognition for their efforts in establishing a physician-student mentoring program administered by the Women in Medicine Committee of the San Diego County Medical Association. Rosemarie and Natasha were nominated for the award by the AWIS San Diego Board of Directors.

As reported in the last newsletter, Rosemarie and Natasha met last fall when they were "paired" through the AWIS San Diego mentoring program, chaired by **Amy Percy**. Motivated by this positive experience, they created the "Pass It On" mentoring program. In less than a year this program has paired more than 150 physicians and pre-med students.

CHANGING THE FACE OF GOVERNMENT

AWIS is one of 62 organizations that make up the bi-partisan Coalition for Women's Appointments, whose goal is to bring to the attention of the Clinton Transition Team the names of women qualified for top level positions in the new administration. Through a series of task force meetings, the Coalition has identified and submitted an initial list of more than 75 women qualified to fill key policy-making positions. The Coalition's efforts have drawn the attention of the news media, with stories appearing in the *Associated Press*, *USA Today*, and *The Washington Post* among others.

AWIS Executive Director **Catherine Didion** is chair of the Coalition's Environmental and Science Task Forces. She was interviewed live on C-SPAN on December 11 regarding the Coalition's reaction to President-elect Clinton's announcement of his appointment of the first women members to his new cabinet.

GRANT FOR MINORITIES

SDSU has received a \$450,000 grant to prepare students from under-represented ethnic groups for doctoral studies in mathematics, science and other technical fields.

The three-grant from the U.S. Department of Education will provide one year of financial support for 25 low-income students who are the first in their families to attend college. The first grants will be issued to students admitted to doctoral programs in the spring 1993 semester.

SDSU also will provide seminars, research projects, tutoring, counseling, and mentoring for students in the program. It is open to African-American, Latino and American Indian students who are not yet represented on California state university campuses by the same percentages reflected in the population as a whole.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM FOR GRADUATE STUDIES

UCSD and the Salk Institute have announced their participation in a new cooperative graduate teaching and research program in biology. Under the agreement, 27 of the Salk Institute's 47 faculty members have chosen to participate in the program, joining the 60 members of UCSD's biology faculty. The agreement, retroactive to July 31, 1991, permits graduate students in biology at UCSD to study in several Salk laboratories previously unavailable to them. Salk professors participating in the program will be involved in teaching both graduate-level and undergraduate biology courses at UCSD.

MEMBER NEWS

Judy Berlfein is the author of "Teen Pregnancy," written for junior high school level and distributed to schools nationwide.

Sandy Slivka joins Tanabe Research as a research scientist.

Eleanor Williams joins UCSD's Biomedical Department as a staff research associate.

HELPING GIRLS EXPLORE MATH AND SCIENCE

For 75 years, Girls Scouts, San Diego-Imperial Council, Inc. has been providing informal, educational programs designed to instill values and build skills in girls that will help them grow into tomorrow's resourceful, contributing women. In partnership with over 8,000 adult volunteers, this council is committed to developing the potential of its 29,000 girl members.

Girl Scouts, San Diego-Imperial Council, Inc., helps girls explore and develop interests in the fields of math and science through innovative programs and activities that help stimulate and educate girls about the opportunities in these fields. As part of this ongoing commitment, this council offers leaders a program titled *Contemporary Issues: Leading Girls to Mathematics, Science and Technology*. This printed program material helps troop leaders help girls discover that exploration in mathematics, science, and technology can be fun and easy.

Other programs include: **Futurekids Learning Center**, which helps girls build a solid foundation of knowledge, skills and positive attitudes about the world of computers. **The Challenger Learning Center** which is operated by the Reuben H. Fleet Space and Science Center and offers a unique, hands on learning experience upon a realistic Mission Control mock-up and a 21st Century Space Station simulator to transport teams on a simulated voyage.

As part of an upcoming 1993 Wider Opportunity, **An Ocean of Opportunities** (a program that allows a small group of girls from around the United States to visit and learn about other areas in the U.S.) the research ship, Vantuna (owned and operated by Occidental College), will sail from Los Angeles to Point Loma and take girls on one-day research trips to learn about marine biology. If you or your company would like to become involved in any of these projects, please contact Janet Garretson at 298-8393 ext. 257.

TALK TO BARBIE

As you are undoubtedly aware, Mattel recently introduced Teen Talk Barbie, a new entrant in the company's successful product line. Each Teen Talk Barbie has been programmed to speak four of 200 possible phrases. One of the phrases is "Math class is tough." If you find the phrase objectionable (as many do), you are encouraged to let Mattel know by calling 800-421-2887, or writing Mattel's President and CEO Jill Elikann Barad at 330 Continental Blvd., El Segundo, CA 90245.

FYI - AWIS President Ellen Weaver has approached Mattel with an offer to explore ways in which AWIS and the company can work together in the development of future toy lines. Mattel has indicated its willingness to consider a proposal from AWIS.

CAREER CORNER

Bad Bosses Bring Out Workers' Worst

Beware bad bosses. Not only do they hamper work production, but they also create home front problems for their workers. The ill effects of poor supervisors eclipse even the impact of a death in the family in lowering job performance, according to a new study. *American Workers Under Pressure*, a three-year, nationwide study of 28,000 employees produced by the St. Paul Fire & Marine Insurance Co., in which one in three workers said they were disappointed in or felt neutral about their supervisor. The study differs from previous surveys that have focused only on the impact of personal problems at work. Rather, this analysis finds that bad bosses are causing home front woes as well.

The resulting difficulties at home can cause another round of problems on the job, leading to a "downward spiral" of mistakes and accidents and reduced quality of life for the employee. In other words, problems at work can have a more negative effect on *both* work and home life than can strictly personal problems.

Given the competitive environment of the '90s, it is hoped that companies take the findings seriously and make efforts to provide adequate supervisor training.

The study also found direct links between health and employees with balanced lives -- those who had time outside work to spend with family and friends. Those who reported balanced lives had the least stress.

(source: wire service news story, October 1992)

The AWIS-San Diego newsletter is published bi-monthly 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; 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; phone 793-3537, fax 793-1144. Deadline for the next newsletter is February 10.