

# AWIS Newsletter

Volume 5, Edition 6

Page 1

Bimonthly Newsletter for San Diego's Local Chapter - Association for Women in Science

November/December 1997

## A Holiday Message from AWIS San Diego



Wishing you and your family a  
Happy Holiday Season  
and a Great 1998!

We're looking forward to  
seeing you at  
our 1998 AWIS Events!



## Free E-mail Service for Research and Education Funding Opportunities

Paul Carton, Ph.D.  
RAMS-FIE

To better compete for research and education funding, subscribe to FEDIX Opportunity Alert!!! (FOA), our free e-mail service that automatically delivers targeted research and education funding opportunities within your specific areas of interest.

The Federal Government is funding this free resource, and thousands of educators and researchers nationwide are taking advantage of it. Since March 1996, FEDIX Opportunity Alert has grown to a total of more than 55,000 subscribers who have received over 15 million opportunity alerts.

Don't be left behind! To participate in FEDIX Opportunity Alert!!! simply:

1. Register for FOA on FEDIX at location:  
<http://www.rams-fie.com/opportunity.htm>
2. Select the keywords that identify your areas of interest.

Beginning with the next business day, a daily search of new federal opportunities will be conducted on your

behalf and those that match your areas of interest will be automatically e-mailed to you.

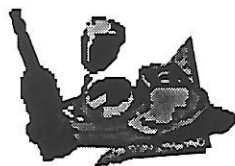
Don't miss out on a great opportunity that thousands of your colleagues have found to be an enormous and timely help in today's competitive funding environment. Importantly, surveys show that by a 6 to 1 margin our subscribers find FEDIX Opportunity Alert to be better than searching the Internet for opportunities themselves. Please, take just a few moments to register for FOA and begin taking advantage of this valuable resource.

## The AWIS-San Diego Web Page Developer

Barbara Armstrong

Nicholas Shiftan, the AWIS-San Diego Chapter WEB page developer, is currently a Sophomore at La Jolla Country Day School. Nicholas has been working with computers since he can remember, and created the AWIS San Diego website in late 1996 under the supervision of Mrs. Gloria Friedgen. He is responsible for maintaining the WEB page, updating the information when requested. Nick works part time for the Sciences Education Foundation at General Atomics as the designer of their web page. You can see it at <http://www.sci-ed-ga.org>. Nick can be reached at [nshiftan@san.rr.com](mailto:nshiftan@san.rr.com).

Nicholas Shiftan  
AWIS San Diego Webmaster  
<http://www.ljcds.pvt.k12.ca.us/awis/>



## AWIS October Event - Happy Hour

Emelyn Eldredge

The October AWIS Happy Hour at Hops was a success! We were glad to see so many enthusiastic people join us to blow off steam after a long week. We will continue to have these low-key get-

to-know-each-others networking opportunities sporadically throughout the year. So take a moment and bring a colleague to hoist a brew and meet scientists outside of your normal traffic pattern.

## AWIS November Event - Helios Dance Theater

Tina Kuus-Reichel

On Friday November 21, twenty AWIS members and friends attended the Helios Dance Theater performance in the cozy dance recital hall at San Diego State University. The Helios Dance Theater is a Los Angeles based modern dance troupe who's performances portray themes from women's lives and struggles.

The performance was stylish, controversial and very gracefully done. The dance action was preceded by a social hour in the presidio style courtyard adjacent to the recital hall and featured Mediterranean-style hors d'oeuvres and goodies. The hospitality given to us by San Diego State was more than we expected. Both the chairman of the Dance Department and Sandra Bernhardt, the director of the Helios Dance Theater stopped by for a chat with AWIS members. It was a delightful evening of culture and social grace.

## Attention Non-AWIS Members

Judith Finlay

Many of you have requested to be put on our mailing list before you decide if you want to join. We do this as a service but also to encourage you to join National and San Diego AWIS. If you have been receiving the newsletter for a while and have decided you would like to join AWIS it is easy. Please visit our website, (<http://www.ljcds.pvt.k12.ca.us/awis/>) print out the form and mail it to us with a check. If you don't have web access please contact us by email ([jafinlay@aol.com](mailto:jafinlay@aol.com)), voicemail (619.687.5580) or US mail (PO Box 178096, San Diego, CA 92177-8096) and we will send you membership forms.



## AWIS and Girl Scouts Create High School Mentoring Program

Barbara Armstrong

The AWIS-SD Education Outreach committee, in cooperation with the San Diego-Imperial County Girl Scouts, will launch a mentor program for high school students beginning early in 1998. AWIS member and Girl Scouts program coordinator, Felicia Eaves, had previously identified AWIS members interested in mentoring or volunteering with the girl scouts in science activities. The AWIS-SD mentor program takes its mission statement from the AWIS National mentor program: "AWIS believes that mentoring is one of the most critical tools to promote retention and advancement of women in science and engineering."

AWIS mentors commit to meeting with a Girl Scout (or mentee) at least once a month for a period of six months. The goals of the program are:

- 1) Encourage students -- especially girls -- to study math and science
- 2) Give students a "real view" of science
- 3) Expose students to the "state of the art" of science
- 4) Nurture future scientists

The AWIS mentor program will include a mix of group meetings/activities and individual meetings between mentors and students. This will give the mentors and students a chance to talk about science careers and provide students with an idea of what a typical day in the life of a woman scientist is like. Mentors may help students with basic homework, advise students on course selection and career options, as well as help students evaluate their progress.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Salme Taagepera at: [st@jeeves.ucsd.edu](mailto:st@jeeves.ucsd.edu) or Lee Fortunato at: [leef@jeeves.ucsd.edu](mailto:leef@jeeves.ucsd.edu).

## Time Magazine Needs Names of Important Women!

Time Magazine is accepting suggestions for the 100 most important people of the 20th Century. A list of

possibles in several categories is followed by a space for you to submit your suggestions. Of course the suggestions they list are nearly all male.

Get out your women's history books and submit your personal favorites!

[http://www.pathfinder.com/@tKywEAQAFwybmDe\\*/time/](http://www.pathfinder.com/@tKywEAQAFwybmDe*/time/)

## Local College Helps Turn Students on to Science

Union Tribune

Since 1993, Southwestern College's math and science departments have received \$650,000 in national grants, with an additional \$70,000 provided by the Southwestern College board. The money has been used to create a "Bridges to the Future" project that recruits women and members of minorities to science-degree programs.

Southwestern College, along with many institutions of higher learning, is looking at students to boost the number of women, minorities and other underrepresented groups in the science fields.

The National Science Foundation last year completed its eighth in a series of reports to Congress detailing the low numbers of women, members of minorities and people with disabilities in the science and mathematical fields.

## Attention Squash Enthusiasts

Lucie Bruijn

Looking for squash players? Here's your chance to join the AWIS squash ladder. Email me your name and contact telephone number and I'll compile a squash ladder and distribute it to you. Lucie Bruijn, email: [lbruijn@ucsd.edu](mailto:lbruijn@ucsd.edu) or phone 534 7899.

## AWIS Brunch Committee

Lucie Bruijn

Networking brunches provide an opportunity for scientists to exchange ideas and experiences. For those interested to learn more about career opportunities either in academia or industry this is an excellent venue to learn from others and make connections. The first brunch will be held February 28, 1998 (details will be posted in January) and will kindly be hosted by

Lynne Friedmann. Please let me know whether you would like to help on the committee (this would involve organizing venues and catering) or whether you would be willing to host a brunch for about twenty people. Email: [lbruijn@ucsd.edu](mailto:lbruijn@ucsd.edu)

## Online Information

The Internet is becoming an increasingly important tool for scientists. Everyone knows about Medline, of course, and now you can mine more information than ever from the 'net. Check out these sites:

<http://www.aaas.org/cpst/>  
Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology -- this arm of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is devoted to studying personnel trends in science and engineering. Their Web site describes a number of projects and publications, including *Postdoctoral Perspectives*, a study of employment trends in newly minted (and sometimes aging) Ph.D.s.

<http://www.nextwave.org/>  
The Nextwave -- This is a project of the AAAS devoted to young scientists and new entrants to the science and engineering job market. Career advice, job market statistics, a bulletin board, and newsbriefs are available.

<http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/srs/stats.htm>  
NSF Division of Science and Resource Studies -- Online databases, reports, publications, and more.

<http://www.phds.org/>  
PHDS.ORG -- This is a placement and recruiting service for math and science Ph.D.s. Resources for job seekers and employers can be found here

<http://www.rams-fie.com/opportunity.htm>  
To better compete for research and education funding, subscribe to FEDIX Opportunity Alert, their free e-mail service automatically delivers targeted research and education funding opportunities within your specific areas of interest.



## From the Hill...

Now available on the World Wide Web from AAAS  
(<http://www.aaas.org/spp/dspp/rd/rdwwwpg.htm>)

### AAAS R&D Funding Update November 7, 1997 -

In a last-minute rush to clear legislation before ending the first session of the 105th Congress, both chambers hope to resolve disputes holding up final approval of four appropriations bills for FY 1998 within the next few days. Although the unfinished appropriations bills include the budgets of major R&D funding agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Department of Commerce, broad funding trends for federal support for R&D in FY 1998 have become clear. Because of the balanced budget agreement and a booming economy that has boosted tax revenues far higher than anyone had expected, appropriators have dramatically increased FY 1998 discretionary spending compared to past budget plans. R&D has shared in this windfall.

In a R&D Funding Update released today and available at the URL above (in the "What's New" or "FY 1998 R&D" sections), AAAS estimates that as of November 7:

- Total federal R&D in FY 1998 stands at \$76.1 billion, \$2.8 billion or 3.9 percent more than FY 1997. All major R&D funding agencies except Transportation and Agriculture have received increases well ahead of the expected 2.5 percent inflation rate.
- The FY 1998 total is likely to be even higher when appropriations action is completed.
- Federal support for basic research is expected to rise by at least 4.0 percent to \$15.4 billion.

More information, and a funding table, is available in the R&D Funding Update. The Update also notes other important trends in R&D, including the latest figures for industry-funded R&D, and offers an outlook for the next few weeks on the final outcome of FY 1998 appropriations.

Also available on the AAAS Web site:

Information about the 1998-99 AAAS public policy fellowships that bring scientists and engineers to Washington,

DC, to spend a year working in the Congress, the State Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other federal agencies is now available.

Deadline for applications is January 15, 1998.

(URL:  
<http://www.aaas.org/spp/dspp/dspp.htm>,  
or follow the link to Science and Policy Programs at the bottom of the AAAS R&D Budget site)

AAAS R&D Budget and Policy Project  
1200 New York Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 326-6607; -6600  
[science\\_policy@aaas.org](mailto:science_policy@aaas.org)  
<http://www.aaas.org/spp/dspp/rd/rdwwwpg.htm>

## Announcements



### Congratulations to Csilla Fenczik!

Congratulations to Csilla Fenczik, first author of "Complementation of dominant suppression implicates CD98 in integrin activation" in the November 6 issue of "Nature" vol 390, pages 81-84. Csilla is a long-time member of AWIS, her most outstanding contribution being the organization of the 1995 Women in Bioscience Conference.

We want to know just how accomplished our members and supporters are. Please send your announcements to the Editor to be included in upcoming Newsletters.



### Tomorrow's Girl: Mentors Needed

A new LA-AWIS member, Cheryl Hershey, has recently published the Tomorrow's Girl fictional series for young girls, ages 6-12. The series has been designed to meet the needs of young girls in regard to their loss of interest in science and math by the age of 12.

These paperback books feature a young girl solving mysteries or other

problems using science and technology. She assists a woman in a science or technology career or background, which provides a ready-made mentor in the supporting character. The science is uncomplicated, but quite compelling for girls (and their parents!) Moreover, the situations are fictional, but the problem-solving methods are quite real. They also include some hands-on science activities related to the story and a glossary. Most importantly, the books subtly show what can be done with science, one of the necessary drivers to keep girls interested.

Cheryl has also developed a web site at <http://www.tomorrows-girl.com>, where "womentors" are featured. If any one would be interested in becoming a womentor or would like more information on her Tomorrow's Girl paperback series, please email Cheryl Hershey for more information at: [tomorrowsgirl@msn.com](mailto:tomorrowsgirl@msn.com).



### Science Books for Young Readers

For anyone interested in science books for young readers (age 8-14), Margaret Benoit, AWIS Outreach member and future AWIS member, has written two books, both of which have won the American Chemical Society Award for creative and writing. They are titled: "Who Killed Olive Souffle" and "Who Framed Art Decco." In both mysteries the detective uses basic elements of science to solve each mystery. The purpose of writing the books was to engage her Jr. High students in the study of Chemistry.

There are several book-signing events planned:

- Dec. 19th, 2-4pm, Waldenbooks, N. County Fair
- Dec. 20th, 12-2pm, Waldenbooks, Fashion Valley
- Dec. 23rd, 12-2pm, Waldenbooks, Fashion Valley
- Dec. 28th, 2-4pm, Brentano's, South Coast Plaza, Costa Mesa CA

Note: "Who Framed Art Decco." will be available in December



### AWIS Calendar 1997-98

Month	Activity	Date	Coordinator
September	NASA Report Presenter: Sue Lowery, USD	9/30	All AWIS Board Members
October	Happy Hour at Hops	10/17	Lucie Bruijn
November	Helios Dance Theatre	11/21	Emelyn Eldredge
December	None		
January	Intellectual Property Brown, Martin, Haller and McClain	1/21/98 7:00 p.m.	Lucie Bruijn
February	• Whale Watching • Brunch	2/21/98 2/28/98	Nikou Hessami Lucie Bruijn
March	KPBS Pledge Drive	TBD	Emelyn Eldredge
April	• Annual Gala - Stephen Birch Aquarium • Science Fair	4/4/98 TBD	Tina Kuus-Reichel Jennifer Royce
May	California Native Plants Conservation Talk	TBD	Lucie Bruijn
June	Presidio Archeology Project	TBD	Nikou Hessami
<b>For More Information-</b>	Call: AWIS Voice Mail 619-687-5580	Visit: AWIS Web Site <a href="http://www.ljcds.pvt.k12.ca.us/awis/">http://www.ljcds.pvt.k12.ca.us/awis/</a>	

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Science Fair	Jennifer Royce, jroyce@scripps.edu
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Tina Kuus-Reichel	tkr@beckman.com
<b>Moving</b>	
Please give us your new address so you won't miss our mailings! Please phone or mail changes to the AWIS voicemail or PO Box or better yet email the changes to Judith Finlay (jafinlay@aol.com).	

- Become an active AWIS member!
- Get involved!
- We've got many committees to choose from that always need a hand!
  - Attend an AWIS Activity!
  - Attend an AWIS Board Meeting!
  - Looking forward to meeting you!

#### About the AWIS Newsletter

The AWIS Newsletter is published bimonthly and provides AWIS members and supporters with information on chapter activities, career developments, and issues related to women in science. The newsletter is free to AWIS members. Subscription rate for non-members is \$20 a year.

Editor Sharon Cherf  
Co-Editors Barbara Armstrong  
Lynne Friedmann

Send news items and suggestions to Sharon Cherf via email: scherf@qualcomm.com OR 6455 Lusk Blvd, Q-243M, San Diego, CA 92121. If you would like your article to be included in the next issue, please send your items in by January 30, 1998. For AWIS membership information call the AWIS voice mail line at 619-687-5580.