

NEWSLETTER

Association for Women in Science

- San Diego Chapter -

AWIS CALENDAR

October -- "Making Effective Presentations at Scientific Meetings," joint AWIS/GWIS mentoring workshop
November -- Biotech company presentation
December -- no meeting (happy holidays)
January -- Mentoring workshop
February -- San Diego's vernal pools
March -- Mentoring workshop
April -- Biotech company presentation
May -- Presentation by AWIS Science Fair Winners

PRIME-TIME SCIENCE

CBS affiliate WHDH-TV in Boston, along with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Museum of Science in Boston, and the Massachusetts Department of Education, have launched a television program to promote science literacy. "Imagine That!" features popular scientists explaining the importance of knowing how science works and how it affects people's lives. The show airs on Sunday, right after "60 Minutes," and will run for a year and a half.

AWIS IN THE NEWS

News coverage of the election of the 1992-92 AWIS Board of Directors has appeared in the *San Diego Business Journal*, *San Diego Daily Transcript*, and the (Golden Triangle) *Metropolitan*.

Testimony presented by AWIS at the recent Congressional Subcommittee hearing on "Sexual Harassment in Nontraditional Occupations" was cited in news coverage of the proceeding in *The Washington Post* as well as other newspapers around the country.

AWIS Executive Director Catherine Didion is quoted in two news stories in the August 17 issue of *The Scientist*. One article described the results of an American Chemical Society survey of women in chemistry; the other discussed the impact of the recession on the scientific job market.

AWIS Education Foundation Awards

The AWIS Educational Foundation recently presented its annual awards that provide recognition and financial support to women pursuing their Ph.D. in technical and scientific fields. The awards ranged from \$250 to \$1000.

Three San Diego women were among this year's 22 recipients. They are Saima Aijaz (oceanography) at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Kathryn Hanley (biology) at UCSD, and Michelle R. Ferrero (molecular pathology) also at UCSD.

FILLING A VOID

In late July, the Scientists' Institute for Public Information (SIPI) published the first issue of *HEALTHWIRE*, a health, science, and technology newsletter specifically addressing the interests of minority communities. "It's for minority press organizations that are small and can't afford to have science or health specialists on their staffs," says Sheree Crute, director of the Minority Information Center at SIPI.

Each *HEALTHWIRE* will look at one topic, such as cultural issues and AIDS prevention, or medical and science education for minority students, and each article will include a one-page section of resources to enable readers to get involved. "Science is too important to be left in the hands of scientists and government officials," says Fred Jerome, executive vice president of SIPI, "and the best way to disseminate science and health information is through the media."

NATIONAL SCIENCE MEDAL

The National Medal of Science was recently awarded to six men and two women: Eleanor J. Gibson of Cornell University for her "conceptual insights in developing a theory of perceptual learning and for achieving a deeper understanding of the perceptual development in children and basic processes in reading," and Maxine F. Singer of Carnegie Institution of Washington "for her outstanding scientific accomplishments and her deep concern for the societal responsibility of the scientist."

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

The Art of Science: A Practical Guide to Experiments, Observations and Handling Data, is the first book to assemble the many unwritten rules and customs of science that facilitate the transition of students from scientific observers into true scientific thinkers.

From proper experimental design, to record-keeping, to statistical analysis and a special chapter on award-winning science fair projects, *The Art of Science* is an invaluable supplement for every lab science course. The book will also be of interest to science hobbyists and the general public.

The Art of Science is available in scientific and technical bookstores or directly from the publisher at \$19.95, plus tax and shipping. For information on individual or quantity orders, contact HighText Publications Inc., 7128 Miramar Road, Suite 15A, San Diego 92121; phone 693-5900, FAX 693-3225.

FYI: HighText Publications was founded in 1990 by AWIS member **Carol Lewis**, an electrical engineer and former acquisitions editor with Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

THE FRUITS OF RESEARCH

Remember the 12.5 million tomato seeds that spent six years in space? NASA has summarized 8,000 reports sent to the agency from teachers and school children who participated in attempts to grow the seeds. The findings: Space-exposed seeds germinated slightly faster -- in 8 days compared with 8.3 -- than Earth-bound control seeds. Plants grown from the space seeds grew faster for the first three to four weeks, exhibited premature chlorophyll development and had greater levels of chlorophyll than controls. The space plants also had a surprisingly low rate of mutations that altered physical appearance, such as speckled fruit or variations in leaf color. Teacher **Ken Selee** of Brown Elementary in Turlock, Calif., became the first to produce a ripe tomato from the seeds and his class celebrated by organizing the first Bacon, Lettuce and Space Tomato Sandwich Party.

And then there was the report of a budding scientist from Ontario: "Dear NASA: Hi. My name is **Matt**. I am in grade 2. I really enjoy growing my plants. Here are my results. My Earth seed did not grow. My space seed grew but it fell off my desk. It died" (source: *Science News*, May 16, 1992.)

SUPPORT WOMEN

The National Women's Hall of Fame suggests 10 ways in which women can support other women:

1. Write a note of thanks to a woman who has helped you.
2. Share good friends; introduce two of your friends who don't know each other.
3. Mentor a young person.
4. Record the history of the women in your family (include yourself).
5. Thank your mother for all she's done for you.
6. Share what you know. Speak to a class or professional organization.
7. Every day, do something to help another woman.
8. Emphasize economic womanpower by using the services of women in business or the professions.
9. Whenever possible, hire and promote qualified women.
10. Visit a retirement or nursing home and spend some time with elderly women.

FAREWELL TO PEG DE ROSE

Long-time AWIS member **Peg DeRose** leaves San Diego to accept a research position with Amgen in Thousand Oaks. Peg has been one of the chapter's more visible and active members. Over the years she has volunteered hundreds of hours organizing the AWIS Science Fair judging, participating in the annual Science Camp-in at the Reuben Fleet Science Center, and representing San Diego AWIS at last year's chapters' conference in Washington, D.C. AWIS extends its best wishes for her continued success and heartfelt thanks for her energy and devotion to AWIS. Peg, you will be missed.

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; phone 793-3537, fax 793-1144. Deadline for the next newsletter is October 10.