

# AWIS Newsletter

Volume 6, Edition 1

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

January/February 1998

## SAVE THE DATE!



**Saturday, April 4, 1998  
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**

**First Annual  
AWIS San Diego Gala**

**Stephen Birch Aquarium  
La Jolla, California**

**Watch your mailing for more  
information.**



**AWIS Spring Gala**  
*by Tina Kuus-Reichel*

By now you all should have received your SAVE the DATE cards for the AWIS Spring Gala that will take place on the evening of Saturday, April 4. We have reserved the Stephen Birch Aquarium with its panoramic views of La Jolla and the Pacific. In addition, all the exhibits at the aquarium will be open to Gala guests. We are planning food, drinks, music and a speaker from the Annals of Improbable Research.

There are now 10 of us on the organizing committee but we could really use more help in the fund raising department. This year, we have set a goal of raising \$5,000.00 for the new AWIS Scholarship Fund. We are kicking off the fund drive coincident with the Spring Gala. If you are interested in

helping - PLEASE - give Isabel Corcos (455-2508) or Tina Kuus-Reichel (621-3242) a call.

We expect at least 200 AWISians and their significant others, or not, to attend this special place and event. Keep an eye out for your invitation in the mail.

## AWIS February Event: Whale Watching

On Saturday, February 21 AWIS/San Diego Chapter will be sponsoring a Whale Watching event from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. For those of you who have signed up, please meet at Seaport Sport Fishing, 1717 Quarvira Rd., San Diego 92116.

Note: There was an error in the flyer sent out last month. The Whale Watching event will held on February 21.

For more information contact, Nikou Hessami via e-mail [nikou@mds-usa.com](mailto:nikou@mds-usa.com) or phone 619-259-0301.



**1998 Science Fair**  
*Jennifer Royce*

Every April on a Wednesday morning, the Federal Building in Balboa Park fills with several hundred young scientist and engineers who enthusiastically compete for awards at the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair. After months of design and research they and their projects are showcased before the Fair Committee and Professional Societies who judge their original projects which have arrived at the county wide fair after winning the highest honors at their individual schools. Winning projects at the Greater San Diego Fair are eligible to compete at the California State Science and Engineering Fair.

AWIS San Diego has a continuing opportunity to honor these young scientists and engineers by judging for

awards given by a variety of professional societies. On the morning of the Fair, ten to twenty judges arrive to spend a few hours talking and listening to Junior High and Senior High School young women scientists summarize their project's conception and design, describe the trials of executing experiments, and discuss their results and conclusions in the most animated presentations.

The 43rd Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair will take place on Wednesday, April 1, 1998. AWIS needs volunteers to judge for the two Junior High and two Senior high prizes we award as a Professional Society. In past years we have received requests from 200 young women for consideration of an AWIS award. We need many judges; AWIS members are encouraged to participate in this inspiring mentoring activity, and to recruit friends and co-workers to join our judging teams. This year we will be judging projects in the subject areas of Botany, Environmental Science, Earth/Space Science, Medicine, Microbiology, Zoology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Physics, Math, Engineering, and Computer Science.

Judging will only take a few hours on the day of the Fair. This year we are planning to have a meeting a few days before the fair to familiarize judges with the procedures and guidelines for evaluating projects. Those interested in judging or having questions please contact Jennifer Royce, e-mail address [jroyce@scripps.edu](mailto:jroyce@scripps.edu) or phone at 565-6479.

The AWIS winners of the Fair will be honored at an awards ceremony during the May chapter meeting. This meeting has been hosted in past years by a Biotech company or scientific institution to allow the young women scientists, their families, friends, and teachers a chance to see science at work. Some of our past hosts have been Canji, Tanabe, Qualcomm, Scripps, Salk, and La Jolla Cancer Research Institute. If your company would like to sponsor this event please contact Jennifer Royce.



## **BIOCOM/san diego Is Going Plaid! Its a Plaid, Plaid, Plaid, World**

*Marcelle Miller-Vogel*

Come join us February 28 at 8:00 p.m. for what CBS-TV called "the happiest show in town" - FOREVER PLAID at The Theatre in Old Town. FOREVER PLAID the fast-paced musical comedy about four irresistible harmony singers who finally realize their dream. This hilarious look at the guy groups of the 50's includes 29 timeless hits of the era, as well as the entire Ed Sullivan Show re-enacted in just over 3 minutes!

The special BIOCOM rate is \$22.00 per ticket, and all guests and spouses are welcome. Discounts are also available at several local restaurants such as Cafe Pacifica, The Great Wall and Acapulco to complete a grand evening. For more information call Helena Clarin at BIOCOM at 619.4455.0300 or e-mail [biocomhclarin@mycogen.com](mailto:biocomhclarin@mycogen.com).

## **Third Annual Maria Goeppert-Mayer Symposium**

*GWIS*

On Saturday, March 7, the Third Annual Maria Goeppert-Mayer Symposium will be held at the San Diego Supercomputer Center on the UCSD campus from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Maria Goeppert-Mayer won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1963.

The symposium will feature the following speakers: Robin Garrell (UCLA), Joan Heller-Brown (UCSD), Marye Anne Fox (UT, Austin) and Brenda Baker (ISIS).

Attendance is free, but registration is required by March 3. Contact Kim Baldrige at the San Diego Supercomputer Center ([kimb@sdsc.edu](mailto:kimb@sdsc.edu)) for more information.

## **BIOCOM Breakfast Invitation**

*Marcelle Miller-Vogel*

BIOCOM/san diego's March breakfast meeting will be a dynamic presentation on March 11, 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. at the Sheraton Grand Torrey Pines by Jerry Hirschberg, Founder and President, Nissan Design International, Inc. His recently released book *The Creative Priority: Driving Innovative Business in The Real World*, describes the corporate culture that exists in America and why it does not foster creative and innovative thinking.

One of the world's automotive industry design leaders, Hirschberg is a highly rated speaker on a wide variety of business topics, and has served on numerous civic boards, including the Cleveland Institute of Art, the San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art, as advisor to the Graduate School for Pacific and International Studies at UCSD and the Mayor's Growth Management Task Force in San Diego. Hirschberg has lectured widely at leading universities and has chaired the national IDEA Awards program for Business Week.

Please join us for this lively and thought-provoking breakfast as we hear how the principles of a working creative process can foster better products and better companies.

For more information call Marcelle Miller-Vogel at BIOCOM at 619.455.0300 or see [www.biocom.org](http://www.biocom.org).

## **Public Television and AWIS**

*Emelyn Eldredge*

Join AWIS on Saturday evening, March 14th for one night of the KPBS Spring Pledge Drive. Public Television is the ONLY free source of reliable science programming in the country and this is a great opportunity to give AWIS some local recognition.

Participants will be given a "Women in Bioscience" T-shirt to heighten visibility on screen (we will be seated on risers behind the "talent"). When we aren't collecting pledges, we will be entertained by a Monty Python marathon. If you are interested in participating, call Emelyn at 699-6283 or email [celdredge@acad.com](mailto:celdredge@acad.com).

## **AWIS Outreach Committee Mentorship Program "Kick-off" Luncheon and Career day**

*Barbara Armstrong*

The AWIS Outreach Committee has "kicked-off" its mentorship program with a luncheon held Jan. 31. The program will serve Jr. High and High school girls who have demonstrated an interest in science. 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 student at least once a month for a period of six months. The goals of the program are:

- Encourage students -- especially girls -- to study math and science

- Give students a "real view" of science

- Expose students to the "state of the art" of science

- Nurture future scientists

The AWIS mentor program will include a mix of group meetings/activities and individual meetings between mentors and students. The first event will be a "career day" where information about science careers, graduate school, or scientific methods will be presented. If you would like to participate in this one-day event, or if you would like to be a mentor, contact one of the three people listed below.

If you are interested in joining the two dozen scientists who have volunteered for the program, please contact Salmé Taagepera at: [st@biomail.ucsd.edu](mailto:st@biomail.ucsd.edu), Lee Fortunato at: [leef@biomail.ucsd.edu](mailto:leef@biomail.ucsd.edu) or Barbara Armstrong at: [Barbara\\_Armstrong@sequana.com](mailto:Barbara_Armstrong@sequana.com), (w) (619) 646-8346.

## Science Olympiad & AWIS Outreach Committee

Barbara Armstrong

The Science Olympiad, held Feb. 7, 1998 at SDSU is an academic competition held annually on the local, state and national level where junior high and high school student "teams" consisting of 15 students, can test their knowledge of science. The top eight junior and senior high teams in San Diego County will progress to the state competition. For the past two years, AWIS Outreach committee members have served as coaches for the Roosevelt Jr. High school team. The Roosevelt team was able to achieve two "firsts" this year: they were generated enough interest among the student body to enter two teams into the competition, and the team finished in ninth place. The AWIS Outreach committee members are looking forward to coaching the team again next year.

## AWIS January Event-Intellectual Property Seminar

Lucie Bruijn



From left to right: Tina Kuus-Reichel, Lucie Bruijn, Elinor Musick, Emelyn Edredge, and Barbara Armstrong

Elinor Musick, a partner at Brown, Martin, Haller and McLean gave a stimulating presentation at Qualcomm last month. She focused on patents, using as an example of a patent she had prepared for a "strapless bicycle pedal". There was a large enthusiastic group and much animated discussion. She briefly covered aspects of copy rights and trade marks. We thank Qualcomm for a great venue for the seminar.

## Postdoctoral Concerns

Emelyn Edredge

I don't know how many of you have had the chance to check out the CPST website listed in the last newsletter ([www.aasas.org/cpst/](http://www.aasas.org/cpst/)), but thought that you would be interested to know that CPST is collaborating with NSF in preparing a follow-up to the 1997 report "Postdoctoral Perspectives". Here are some of the issues this next study will attempt to address the following concerns, data permitting:

- Definition of a postdoc. Industrial postdocs, AAAS science policy fellowships, other temporary consulting positions are often really postdocs. Also, look at the number of years it took most people from the start of grad school to first permanent job.

- Quality of life questions: gender; age during postdoc; married/not; children/not (UCSF data revealed that low childbearing rates of postdocs compared to the same age cohort in general and that female postdocs were even less likely than their male counterparts to have any kids).

- Postdoctoral "migration". It is of interest to determine the breakdown of postdocs awarded by state and the breakdown of their undergrad/grad institutions and eventual employers by state. (How often/far do postdocs need to move in order to find meaningful employment?).

- Information on benefits health, dental, vision, healthcare for spouse/family, retirement funds, childcare—as well as academic privileges, etc.

## Brunch Chair Needed

With the departure of Lucie Bruijn, we have lost our brunch chair coordinator. If you are interested in coordinating (not hosting) a brunch, please send e-mail to Emelyn Eldredge via e-mail at [eldredge@acad.com](mailto:eldredge@acad.com) or call 619-699-6283.

## Qualcomm Helps Rebuild Science Classrooms at Mount Miguel High School

QUALCOMM will help rebuild the science lab and classrooms which are used by Mount Miguel's award-winning science students and teachers that was devastated by fire in October 1997.

Mount Miguel students consistently rate high in county and state science fairs, often bringing home top honors and awards. One of their teachers, Larry Nordell, has received the esteemed Christa McAuliffe Fellowship and designation as San Diego County's outstanding high school chemistry teacher in 1986.

## Announcements About Our AWIS Members



### Mentoring Article Published

The March issue of San Diego Metropolitan magazine will carry an article on AWIS and its mentoring activities both nationally and in San Diego. The piece is authored by AWIS Fellow Lynne Friedmann.

### Congratulations to Lucie Bruijn

Congratulations to Lucie Bruijn on landing a Research Scientist position at Bristol Myers in Wallingford, CT. Unfortunately this means that Lucie will be departing San Diego at the end of February and leaving her post on the AWIS Board. We will miss her sunny disposition in helping to plan events and wish her ALL THE BEST in her transition from post-doc to industry professional.



## Online Information

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

<http://www.nature.com/>

Check out Nature magazine's website ([www.nature.com](http://www.nature.com)). There is free access to a section on Careers and Recruitment. Two articles posted there are particularly worth reading: "In defence of small science" and "Equality not taken for granted". Both articles discuss weaknesses in the peer-review process and how these affect lives and science.

The Equality article highlights results of a study in Sweden that found women applicants for a postdoctoral fellowship funding program had to have more publications to get the same rating as their male peers. Moreover, when they did get funded their grants were smaller than those given to males with the same ranking.

The Defence article discusses the numbers of NIH and NSF grants held by single researchers in the US. Speculation is given about how concentrating on only a few established researcher's ideas essentially prevents the exploration of innovative ideas from the unproven younger generation.

<http://www.euroscience.org/serv04.htm>

(From the Greatmail listserver)

Interested in reading a European perspective on issues related to Ph.D. training and employment? The organization Euroscience (Europe's recent answer to the AAAS) has established a working group on the Future for Young Scientists, who preliminary deliberations may be viewed on this Euroscience Web site.

The report speaks to a downturn in European employment opportunities in the past five years, a lag in scientific

productivity relative to the U.S. and Japan, the need to provide more industrial research experiences for trainees, and so on.

<http://www.preparing-faculty.org/>

The Association of American Colleges and Universities and the Council of Graduate Schools have started up a new program to help universities recruit mentors for graduate students and to start seminars on college teaching and other campus-based projects that may give graduate students an idea of what being a professor is really like. More information on this initiative, titled "Preparing Future Faculty," can be found at this Web site.

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/1997/nsf97155/nsf97155.htm>

(Geoff Davis)

Some good news: the Mathematical Sciences wing of the NSF has an outstanding new call for proposals out called VIGRE (Vertically Integrated Grants for Research and Education in the Mathematical Sciences). The VIGRE initiative is designed to foster exactly the sort of reforms in graduate, undergraduate, and postdoctoral education that various National Academy panels have been recommending, including shortening time to degree, developing graduate training programs to produce Ph.D.s prepared for a wide range of careers, and improving of recruitment and retention of members of underrepresented groups. Here are the criteria for evaluation of the proposals:

- Impact of the grant on the Ph.D. program in the mathematical sciences such as shortening the time to degree or inclusion of additional training in related disciplines.
- How integration of research and education will be achieved at all levels and how the proposal complements existing efforts.
- How the integration of the various levels of students and faculty into a community of scholars will be achieved.
- Enhancement of career opportunities and goals for students both at the undergraduate and graduate level. Development of communication skills.
- A strategy and operating plan for recruitment of underrepresented groups.

<http://www.phds.org/ratings>

Geoff Davis, an assistant math professor at Dartmouth University, is the genius behind [www.phds.org](http://www.phds.org), listed in the December AWIS San Diego Newsletter. If you haven't visited the site, you should take a look. Geoff encourages people to add their own links to sites concerned with math and science careers, so [phds.org](http://www.phds.org) grows on a weekly basis. Recently Geoff added a rating system that enables visitors to rank the helpfulness of the sites listed. Thus, the most popular sites move to the top of the list and those less informative move downwards.

Phds.org also has a customized graduate program rating system, which lets one create composite ratings of graduate programs in the sciences using measures of program reputation, size, time to degree, percentage of female students, percentage of underrepresented minority students, and so on. This web site has been featured in Next Wave.

## From the Hill...

Excerpt from January 28, 1998

Editorial of The American Institute of Physics Bulletin of Science Policy News

The President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) met on Monday, January 26th. One of their agenda items was education. PCAST member Shirley Malcom outlined a study on the use of technology to strengthen K-12 education, building on previous research on "what works." Outside comments have been solicited. There was considerable discussion about a report to be released this spring on university reimbursement policies. Of particular interest, Bienenstock said, are questions concerning cost sharing, administrative cost caps, intellectual property, and, especially, the role of graduate students. Gibbons warned that the sum of often small and unintended consequences resulting from administrative changes could be "potentially devastating to graduate education." Expect PCAST to be quite interested in this issue this year.

## AWIS Calendar 1998

Month	Activity	Date	Coordinator
January	Intellectual Property Brown, Martin, Haller and McClain	1/21/98 7:00 p.m.	Lucie Bruijn
February	• Whale Watching	2/21/98	Nikou Hessami
March	KPBS Pledge Drive	3/14/98	Emelyn Eldredge
April	• Science Fair	4/1/98	Jennifer Royce
	• Annual Gala - Stephen Birch Aquarium	4/4/98	Tina Kuus-Reichel
May	Science Fair Awards	TBD	Jennifer Royce
June	California Native Plants Conservation Talk	TBD	Nikou Hessami
July	Presidio Archeology Project	TBD	TBD
August	Padres Game	TBD	TBD
September	Financial Planning Seminar	9/23	Emelyn Eldredge
<b>Important AWIS Information</b> <div> <div> <b>Call:</b>  AWIS Voice Mail  619-687-5580 </div> <div> <b>Write:</b>  AWIS, San Diego Chapter  P.O. Box 178096  San Diego, CA 92177 </div> <div> <b>Visit:</b>  AWIS Web Site  <a href="http://www.fjcds.pvt.k12.ca.us/awis/">http://www.fjcds.pvt.k12.ca.us/awis/</a> </div> <div> <b>Federal Tax ID:</b>  27-7221574 </div> </div>			

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Brunch	TBD
Science Fair	Jennifer Royce, jroyce@scripps.edu
Main Event	Tina Kuus-Reichel, tkr@beckman.com
Newsletter	Sharon Cherf, scherf@qualcomm.com
Scholarship	Nikou Hessami, nikou@mds-usa.com
Bioconference	TBD
Website	Barbara Armstrong, barbara_armstrong@sequana.com

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## Moving? Address Changed?

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 (jfinlay@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 Friedman  
Emelyn Eldredge

Send news items and suggestions to Sharon Cherf via email: scherf@qualcomm.com OR 6455 Lusk Blvd, A-120C, San Diego, CA 92121. If you would like your article to be included in the next issue, please send your items in by March 27, 1998. For AWIS membership information call the AWIS voice mail line at 619-687-5580.