



ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Los Angeles / Ventura County

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**SPEAKING UP FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE: AWIS
PRESIDENT BRIEFS WHITE HOUSE STAFF**

Association for Women in Science (AWIS) President Susan M. Fitzpatrick, PhD, attended a White House meeting on January 31 to provide input and feedback on science and technology themes in President Obama's State of the Union message. Expanding recruitment and engagement for women and minorities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields will strengthen U.S. innovation and competitive positioning, said Fitzpatrick. "If we want to lead the world in education while attracting a new generation of high-tech jobs, we must work together in the science and technology community and ensure the inclusion of women and girls in STEM education," said Ms. Fitzpatrick. "The employment gaps in science, technology and innovation can be filled tomorrow by tapping into untraditional labor pools, such as women and minorities."

Be sure to check our webpage, www.awislavc.org regularly for updates to our events calendar, both professional and social! Dates, places, and times will be posted for all of our upcoming events as the details become available.

Upcoming Events for the
LA/Ventura County Chapter of AWIS

AWIS LAVC Yoga class

Taught by Sandra Thiemann, Ph. D.
Sherman Oaks Community Center
Bldg C, Room L
Saturday, March 31, 10am-12pm

Afternoon at the Getty Social

Getty Center
Sunday, April 15, 2pm

Careers in Industry

A seminar sponsored by KGI
Talk by Mark Brown

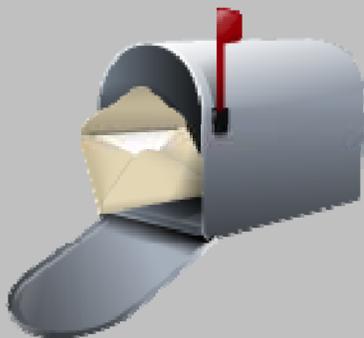
Inside this issue...

- 1 AWIS National News
- 2 Congrats! Column
- 3 AWIS Members Connect
- 4 Work-Life Balance at UCSB
- 5 Elections
- 6 Women and Leadership
- 7 Business of Science Center
- 8 Real success for women

LA/VC AWIS Congrats! Column

The AWIS Congrats Column is now taking submissions...want to recognize yourself or another LA/VC AWIS Member? Just click below to send an email to:

newsletter@awislavc.org



Campus Liaisons Wanted

We are looking for campus liaisons to help draw our chapter together. Campus liaisons assist the chapter in reserving spaces for seminars and events on various campuses, advertise upcoming events with fliers and email lists, and help promote AWIS at their institutions. If you would like to see more involvement on your home turf (company, university, institution, etc), or even host an AWIS event at your site, let us know! Email Tracy at president@awislavc.org and become a new campus liaison for our growing chapter!

Benefit for Members: Need a job?

LA/VC AWIS Chapter members can begin taking immediate advantage of the networking opportunities provided by this organization by getting "LinkedIn". This is also a forum used for job postings. Note, this opportunity is for members only. It is easy! Just follow these simple steps:

1. Join the LA/Ventura County of AWIS
2. Go to <http://www.linkedin.com/>
3. Sign in to your account or if you are new to LinkedIn, create your account
4. Search for the group "LAVC AWIS"
5. Select "Join this group" ♦

Congrats!

Jennifer Hsieh

Presented at PepTalk 2012 in Coronado, CA
The title was: Bridging the Gap: A GFP-Based Strategy for Overexpression and Purification of Membrane Proteins with Intra and Extracellular C-Termini

Tracy Blois, Ph. D.

New position: Licensing Manager at Amgen

April Shiflett, Ph. D.

New position: CW Scientist II at Amgen

Sophia Tsai, Ph. D.

Accepted into EDGE Biofuels Science Technician Certificate Program

Jennifer Gordon, Ph. D.

Renewal of the AAAS Science Policy Fellowship

Jacqueline Flores

Received her MSN and is now a board certified Nurse Practitioner in Women's health with a subspecialty in HIV. Her research was accepted for publication in the Journal of Global Health.

Melina Grigorian, Ph. D.

New position: Post-doctoral associate at UCLA

Welcome to our new members!

(joined since 09/2011)

Elizabeth Curie Hesson

Melissa LaBonte Wilson

Barbara Louise Endema-Walker

Anne Margaret Colombero

EunJung Hwang

Karla Savage Lancaster

Whitney McDonald

Marisa Tellez

Elvira Khialeeva

Leanne Wolf Vollger

Alma Gharib

Astrid Schnetzer

Brittany Nan Berry-Pusey

AWIS Members Connect

Networking leads to success! So, come on out and practice your networking skills at one of our social events. Not only will you get a chance to meet other outstanding AWIS women, but you will also have a little fun while practicing those key networking skills. All in all, a win-win situation!

Annual AWIS LAVC Holiday Party

AWIS LAVC members gathered at the home of our Finance VP Grace Jiang to celebrate another successful year as a chapter. The event was a potluck, with many delicious dishes brought by the attendees. Members who attended also participated in a white elephant gift exchange, which was conducted with lots of laughter and fun! Members enjoyed an evening of networking, relaxation, laughter, and delicious food. Many thanks to Grace for hosting this event!



Ladyface Alehouse Social Networking Event

AWIS members gathered on February 2nd for happy hour at Ladyface Ales in Agoura Hills. The first microbrewery of its kind in the Conejo Valley, Ladyface delighted our group with delicious hand-crafted ales and scrumptious appetizers. We were joined by new members and colleagues of existing members, making the event a great opportunity to network. We always welcome new faces to our social events and hope to see even more at our next event!

-Erin Denny



AWIS Coffee Clubs

Coffee Clubs are now being hosted at several campuses. Check our website for more details and look for fliers. If you would like to host one, let us know! It's a great afternoon pick-me up of caffeine and camaraderie.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEXT MEETING

WE HAVE REGULAR TELEPHONE CONFERENCES TO PLAN UPCOMING EVENTS, BOTH PROFESSIONAL AND NETWORKING. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF THIS PLANNING COMMITTEE, JOIN US ON OUR NEXT CALL ON MONDAY, APRIL 9TH AT 8 PM. FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL WEBADMIN@AWISLAVC.ORG.

UPCOMING EVENTS

YOGA CLASS – SATURDAY, MARCH 31

COFFEE CLUB – APRIL 10, MAY 8, JUNE 12

AFTERNOON AT THE GETTY SOCIAL – APRIL 15

TRANSITIONING TO INDUSTRY SEMINAR – APRIL (TDB)

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR OUTREACH – MAY 1

NETWORKING EVENTS

WE WILL BE PLANNING UPCOMING NETWORKING EVENTS – CONTACT US IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING TO ORGANIZE THESE EVENTS! GO TO WWW.AWISLAVC.ORG FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DETAILS.

Interested in medical writing as a potential career?

There are two upcoming events that may be of interest to you. Please note that these events are not sponsored by AWIS.

American Medical Writers Association

AMWA: Medical Writing as a Career, April 14, 11:30am-2:30pm

Baxter Healthcare in Westlake Village

Deadline to apply: April 8

Chapter website:

<http://www.amwa-pacsw.org/>

National website: <http://www.amwa.org>

ADVANCE-Nebraska

Big 10 STEM Writing Retreat

June 17-22, 2012

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Deadline to apply: March 31

Website: www.advance.unl.edu

Work-Life Balance Workshop

UC Santa Barbara hosted a workshop on Work-Life Satisfaction presented by Tracy Blois (AWIS LAVC Chapter President) on the evening of February 17th. The event was attended by over 35 women from many sectors of the science and academic community in Santa Barbara. Attendees included faculty members, post-docs, graduate and undergraduate students, staff members, and women who work at scientific companies in Santa Barbara. These women represented a range of disciplines from Physics to Psychology, from Computer Science to Communication. Several UCSB departments and organizations sponsored the event, including the Office of Research, the Institute for Social, Behavioral and Economic Research, Women in Science and Engineering, Women in Physics, and Hypatia. The audience was very participatory during the exercises presented by Blois, and everyone found the presentation extremely useful. Afterward, several women remarked that they left with new ways to conceptualize and measure their life priorities. One attendee stated: "I worked through all the exercises and hunted around on the website as well. It was a really good exercise in self-reflection, and has really made me think about the next step in my career, or if a transition is in order." UC Santa Barbara wants to thank Tracy Blois, AWIS, the LAVC chapter, and the Elsevier Foundation for making this workshop possible in our community. We aim to plan more events in the future with a goal of building an AWIS community in Santa Barbara. Keep an eye out for announcements. If you are interested in attending or helping to plan future AWIS-related events in Santa Barbara, please contact Barbara Walker at walker@research.ucsb.edu.

2012-2013 Board Elections

Do you want the opportunity to practice your leadership skills, expand your social network, see the impact you can make to your life, and have fun at the same time? Consider running for an Executive Board position!

- Nominations May 7 – 18
- Special Elections Newsletter May 28
 - Elections June 4-15
- Board positions begin July 1 (each position is a one year term)

Questions? Email president@awislavc.org.

Positions Open for Election

President: As President you will represent this chapter externally and will be called upon to take on leadership positions, as well as provide general leadership to the chapter. The President's duties include attending all meetings, coordinating and officiating chapter activities, recruiting committee members and chapter volunteers, liaising with the National association, and connecting with other AWIS chapters and groups.

Vice President of Chapter Operations: In this role you will oversee and work with the four Committee Chairs and their committees to carry out all chapter operations. You will support chapter activities, collaborate with the President, and work with the VP Programming to serve in the absence of the President.

Vice President of Planning: In this role you will oversee the Event Chairs for all chapter programming. You will have many opportunities to represent and promote the chapter at events. You will support chapter activities, collaborate with the President, and work with the VP Chapter Operations to serve in the absence of the President.

Vice President of Finance: The treasurer is the fiscal officer for the chapter. The treasurer is in charge of funds, securities, receipts, and disbursements for the Chapter. The treasurer is also responsible for monitoring and balancing our AWIS LAVC checking account regularly, preparing a simple summary of quarterly financial statements for the Board, submitting the Yearly Financial Summary to the IRS and the Yearly Activity Report to AWIS National.

Vice President of Communications: Someone organized and able to maintain clear, consistent documents should consider this position. The Secretary for our chapter provides the infrastructure for all of our meetings and ensures that we maintain our chapter's history (i.e. archive).



Call for Committee Members

Interested in becoming more involved in AWIS LA/VC but not sure where to start, or what may be available? There are also non-elected positions you can take advantage of. Committee chair email addresses and committee duties are posted to our website, www.awislavc.org. Check there for the duties committees need assistance with, and email the committee chair to let them know what you would like to help out with! You can dedicate as much or as little of your time as you would like – we just want you to get involved with your chapter! Our chapter's success is directly tied to member involvement, so help to make AWIS LA/VC a continuing success!

Panel on Women and Leadership

Co-sponsored with RAND

Studies show that while over 50% of all Ph. D. degrees granted in the biological sciences now go to women, only about 15% of tenured biological science faculty members are female. How does this gap occur? There are arguments that confine the disparity between these numbers to a lack of leadership ability in women, the “glass ceiling”, or hostility towards women leaders.

But when we look around, we do find women in leadership positions. On November 16th, several women leaders from the STEM fields gathered at RAND in Santa Monica to discuss with AWIS members their rise to leadership positions within their fields, and what advice they have to offer to other women who wish to progress.

The panel consisted of Diana Bartlett, the vice-president of corporate sponsorships for Keck Graduate Institute, Rosalind Lewis, PRINC Director of Aerospace Corporation, Nancy Moore, Senior Management Scientist of RAND, and Tammy Dwyer, Professor of Chemistry from UCSD.

Each of the panelists talked about their definition of leadership and what they encountered as they progressed in their fields. One panelist defined leadership as having a vision about something, and a good leader is one who possesses or cultivates the ability to persuade others about the worth of that vision. Tammy Dwyer noted that in order to be a leader, you must have followers, and that as a leader you should make your followers look good.

Rosalind advised the attendees to look for opportunities, and noted that it is important to recognize when you are getting “tapped on the shoulder.” When you are offered a new situation, be bold and take advantage of it. Don’t be afraid to put yourself into uncomfortable places, because that is how you learn. The importance of mentorship was stressed, as was the importance of women learning to take credit for their accomplishments. As far as mentorship, the audience was reminded that not only is it important that you yourself are mentored, but that you pass on your knowledge and skills by mentoring another person.

The session ended with discussion between attendees and the panelists. Several issues were raised, including gender blindness, choosing between career and family, leading both up and across, and knowing your strengths and weaknesses. The discussions were lively, with opinions offered on both sides regarding the issues that were discussed. The important take-home

message for AWIS members was that you should have a plan, but be open to shifts in that plan as opportunities arise. There is strength in numbers, and groups such as AWIS provide support to women making transitions and breaking the glass ceilings that have previously existed. –April Shiflett



Pictured at left: The AWIS-RAND event on Women's Leadership was organized by Elvira Loreda of RAND (far left), Chih Lew (middle) of AWIS LAVC, and AWIS LAVC President Tracy Blois (right).

The Business of Science Center: The Impact of Your Science

-Tanya Liu

Scientists are people who want to figure out how things work. Our experiments, dissertations, and grants all attempt to answer specific questions about the world. UCLA's Business of Science Center (BSC) attempts to tackle an integral question in this process: how will your science eventually improve human lives, and how do we get there?

The BSC is an outreach program that educates, mentors, and provides real-world experiences for students who are interested in the process of moving a technology—whether it be a drug or a medical device—from laboratory to market. UCLA is fortunate to have top students in research, medicine, law, and business all under one campus. The BSC is aiming to harness this power and provide opportunities for all students to make an impact in this transitional process in three main ways.

First, the BSC offers a course through the Pharmacology Department entitled “The Business of Science: Exploring Entrepreneurship.” As a part of the course, the BSC brings in industry experts from all parts of the spectrum, from venture analysts, chief legal officers, CEOs, and intellectual property officers to discuss topics such as the market potential of a drug, or the financial issues faced by biotechnology start-ups. Students are able to learn from and converse with these professionals in an intimate, interactive classroom setting.

The BSC also coordinates the activities of Venture Teams—teams of science and business students to evaluate the market potential of a UCLA technology. The students work together with both the faculty inventor and an industry mentor on this project, allowing them to apply their skills with a real-world experience.

Finally, the BSC promotes understanding and interest in this field to a wide audience with various on-campus events. Past events include the seminar “Building an Entrepreneurial University” where Professor Ouchi from the Anderson School of Management discussed the value of academia and industry partnerships and how UCLA can further its own relationships to enhance entrepreneurship.

In the words of the BSC: *[Our] mission...is to prepare scientific doctoral students for nonacademic careers; to assist university faculty and clinicians in technology transfer; and to serve as a catalyst for increased industry support and involvement on campus. We believe this will foster a culture of innovation and maximize the impact of UCLA research on society.*

Empowering Women Toward Real Success

-Kate M. Sleeth, Ph. D.

In January the AWIS event was a seminar given by Joan Moran on Empowering Women Toward Real Success. She began by reminding us that we empower ourselves for personal reasons, but that professional success will follow; that if we use resistance it makes us less than we were born to be; and that what happens to you in your life comes from the heart, so follow it. Also that everyone present was a feminist as they believe that women empower other women. She was an amazingly engaging speaker who wasn't afraid to share personal anecdotes to get the point across. Her use of humor and candidness made the seminar fly by and it was a pleasant surprise to see someone speak who is a shining example of the advice they give. Joan gave 5 main pieces of advice for empowerment and success:

1. **Have an Attitude of Gratitude.** Our life is a gift and we should be grateful everyday for what we have. We should also look to find the positive out of any negative as this is where we learn the most.
2. **To be Vulnerable is to be Strong.** When you tap into your emotional palette it means you are being emotionally honest with yourself and others. It also allows maximum creativity. We should not fear embarrassment; be ready to make glorious mistakes otherwise you will never be successful.
3. **Learn to Adapt.** The easier we adapt the happier our life. We need to understand that life is

always in flux and make appropriate adjustments as necessary.

4. **Your Life will never be Successful unless you find your Passion.** What is it that you cannot live without in your life? If you feel blissful and positive about something that is your passion. It will be the source of your finest moments in your life. If you don't know what it is yet challenge yourself by doing new things until you find it. There may be multiple passions in your life so don't stop looking once you find one.

5. **Forgiveness.** This is the tool which makes the others happen. It is the most difficult, especially when it comes to forgiving yourself. There are no mistakes, only bad decisions.

Pictured at Left: Joan Moran speaking to AWIS LAVC members on finding real success.

