

AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Los Angeles / Ventura County

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Upcoming Events

BEHAVIORAL INTERVIEWING

USC Health Sciences Campus (HSC)
Keith Administration (KAM) Building
Mayer Auditorium
1975 Zonal Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90033
October 23, 2012, 6pm-8pm

WALK FOR HOPE

City of Hope
November 4, 2012

HOLIDAY PARTY

Location: TBD
December 9, 2012, 4 pm

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 details become available.

LA/VC AWIS Congrats! Column

Election Results

The elections for the AWIS-LAVC 2012-2013 Board were held from June 1 to 10. Seventeen ballots were cast, all from registered AWIS LAVC members. Three of these votes provided additional chapter input, which is greatly valued.

The results of the elections are the following:

President – April Shiflett

Vice President of Programming-Sophia Tsai

Vice President of Chapter Operations-Erin Denny

Vice President of Finance-Grace Jiang

Vice President of Communications-Lorena Griparic

Tracy Blois, Chapter President for year 2011-2012 continues to serve on the Board as a **Past-President**.

We congratulate the elected Officers! Their biographies can be accessed at <http://www.awislavc.org/Home/officers>.

Congrats!

Allison Sargoy, UCLA-for successfully completing her oral qualifying exam as part of her PhD degree program.

Welcome to our new members!

(joined since 2/2012)

Stacy Rebich Hespanha

Lisette Yco

Megan Rieger

Amy Crocker

Vanessa Fontanes

Jeanette Grant

Julie Kanjanapangka

Elizabeth Lenz

S. McKenzie Stiles

Seema Ehsan

Natalie Goldberg

Linda Soo Hoo

Karineh Petrossian

Lindsey Skrdlant

Johanna Bible

Katrina Welch-Reardon

We conduct 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 Tuesday, November 20th at 8 pm (teleconferences are held every third Tuesday of the month). For more information, please email webadmin@awislavc.org.



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

New President's Letter



Fellow Chapter Members,

Thank you for your trust in electing me President of the LA/VC Chapter of the Association for Women in Science. I have gained so much through my association with AWIS, and value this opportunity to lead a group that I have such esteem for.

Our chapter has now been in existence for 5 years. Our greatest challenges now lie in maintaining our membership, extending our outreach programs, developing new leadership, and continuing to support our members' needs in the form of career development and networking opportunities.

Our chapter currently has approximately 70 members. Many of these members are at the graduate student and post-doctoral stages of their scientific careers. At this level many of our members are seeking opportunities to explore future potential career paths and make connections that will allow them to pursue those paths, in addition to nurturing their current pursuits to optimize their successes.

To this end, our chapter's focus this year will be on career growth. As you can see from our recent events, which include a resume workshop, and the upcoming behavioral interviewing seminar, we have tried to provide this career development. Additionally, we will continue with our networking events, including sponsoring a team for the Walk of Hope at City of Hope. Networking continues to be key in career growth, so be sure to take advantage of those opportunities!

I hope that all of our members will consider becoming more involved with the chapter, whether it be attending at least one event each semester, calling in to a single planning committee meeting to hear about how our chapter is run, or contributing an article to the newsletter to try out new writing skills. Our chapter cannot continue to grow without your participation and guidance.

Sincerely,
April Shiflett
AWIS LA/VC Chapter President

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!

AWIS Coffee Clubs

Coffee Clubs are now being hosted at UCLA, Cedar Sinai, and in East Los Angeles the second Tuesday of each month! 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.



The loss of Phoebe Leboy, founding member of AWIS

From the official AWIS press release:



Alexandria, VA, June 18, 2012 -- Scientist, advocate, and mentor, Dr. Phoebe Starfield Leboy, passed away at her home in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on June 16, 2012. She was a founding member of the Association for Women in Science (AWIS) and served as the association's president in 2008 and 2009.

As a recent past-president of AWIS and principal investigator on an NSF ADVANCE PAID grant to increase women's recognition for research in scientific disciplinary societies, Dr. Leboy was a driving force of innovation in the science of broadening participation and a leader among academic researchers in the push for equal recognition and status of women in the STEM fields. For more than 40 years, she tirelessly advocated to ensure that women in the STEM fields were compensated fairly and without discrimination; advanced equitably and without bias; respected and recognized for their scientific achievements; exposed to successful role models in leadership positions; and able to achieve their full potential. The AWIS Governing recently honored the legacy of Dr. Leboy by unanimously passing a resolution to endow the Phoebe Starfield Leboy Public Policy Fellow.

Transition to Industry: The Postdoctoral Dilemma- If not academia, where do I go?

By Tracy Blois

On May 30 Yvonne Klaue spoke to a captivated audience at Cedars Sinai Medical Center on the 'Postdoctoral Dilemma,' not knowing how to transition beyond academia. Yvonne, who is the Administrative Director for the Postdoctoral Professional Masters (PPM) Program at Keck Graduate Institute (KGI), was a graduate of the first PPM class herself. She first captivated the group of mainly graduate students and post-docs with a few numbers. For instance, there are 89,000 US-trained post-docs (and over 200,000 total throughout the world). Unfortunately, only 14% of post-docs successfully achieve a tenure-track faculty position. This discrepancy set the stage for the topic of transitioning from academia to industry. Yvonne covered three main points for how to transition to industry: (1) network, (2) research the industry, and (3) gain experience, such as management skills. Although CV's can be converted to a resume (and should be converted when applying to industry positions), the act of networking can bypass the resume keyword screen that every Human Resources department imparts. A few key take home points with regards to networking:

- When using professional networking sites such as LinkedIn, be sure to customize and update your page.
- To improve your communication skills essential to networking you can participate with ToastMasters or attend Vendor Shows to practice scientific dialogue.

In terms of researching the industry, it is important to know when there will be job loss for a company; e.g., they have products coming off patent, failed clinical trials, or FDA rejection of a new drug application. Similarly, it is important to know when a company will be experiencing job growth; e.g., FDA approval, licensing deals, or positive clinical trial results. Sites for tracking industry news include Fierce Biotech, Biospace, Xconomy, and mendeslpod.com.

Lastly, it is important to gain experience. Although rare, there are opportunities for graduate student internships with a company. Try to find ways to gain management experience in what you are currently doing. There are options for industry post-doctoral research positions. Sales positions or application specialist positions can provide alternative industry experience. Lastly, the Postdoctoral Professional Masters (PPM) Program offered by Keck Graduate Institute can provide tailored skills for PhD scientists wanting to work in the Biotech or Pharmaceutical industry. The program allows their students to build a focused network and the KGI programs benefit from a strong reputation.



Crafting the Perfect Resume - Resume Workshop with Pat Jazwa

by April Shiflett

Your resume can be the first thing a potential employer sees when you apply for a job. That is, if you can get your resume into the hiring manager's hands! You may have a great network, or you may be applying "cold" to a job application. Either way, you want to be sure to craft your resume as a marketing tool, and the product you are selling in this case is your ability to perform well in the job you are applying for.

Resumes can feel tricky for many of us. How much information is enough? What information is most important - and how can I be sure that it is conveyed clearly? On Saturday, September 29th, AWIS members had the opportunity to attend a workshop led by Pat Jazwa on resume writing. Pat is an experienced business owner and educational consultant, with years of experience in crafting and coaching



resume writers. She shared her insights with AWIS members on creating an industry CV, and the key differences when compared to an academic CV. She also shared tips on presenting your CV to hiring managers, including knowing that your CV or resume will be used to guide the interview once you get it.

She shared exercises with the group on how to identify accomplishments. Each professional experience should list with it your direct accomplishments, not just your job duties. How did you stand out in that position? Many of us are not adept at identifying our accomplishments, but this is an important part of conveying your worth to your next employer. Try whenever possible to quantify how your work has saved time or money. This can apply directly to lab experience - for example, were you able to streamline an assay or purification process? How much time were you able to save by developing or refining this technique?

Also reviewed in detail were summary statements. Specifically, how to write a summary statement, and what information should be included. Examples of strong lead statements and accomplishment statements were included for attendees to review afterward. Attendees were also led through materials on identifying transferable skills and example resumes to use when crafting their own document. The workshop included personalized follow up with Pat for each attendee to get specific advice on their CV or resume related to jobs they were interested in applying for.

Attendees found the experience valuable in thinking about crafting their CV and resume, and how tailor the information they want to present. Please contact Pat Jazwa at www.yourcollegyears.com for more information on resume coaching!

Recent Events

Beverly Hills High School Science Showcase

By Taylor Shaw

In June of 2012, the Beverly Hills High School Science Team held their second annual Science Showcase night. The night included a medley of activities designed to get middle and high school students interested in science. AWIS members Eleonora Goldberg, Kelly Kent, and Kit Shaw hosted their own booth where they explained some of the possible career paths in science. Interactive exhibits like Make-your-own-slime and Worm composting were a big hit with the younger kids. Beverly's robotics team, Mor Torq, held demonstrations with their robots. There were also informational booths with topics like "Art in Science" and "Paleontology." Refreshments included a period table of cookies, and deep fried oreos. A fun time was had by all, and we invite AWIS back next year!



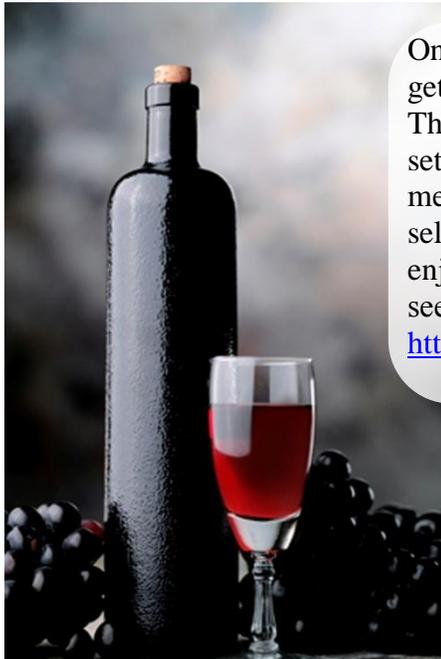
Picture from the event: From left to right- Taylor Shaw, Kit Shaw, Eleonora Goldberg, Michele Kalt, Kelly Kent, and Elizabeth Brajavich.

Call for Committee Members and Volunteers

Interested in becoming more involved in AWIS LA/VC but not sure where to start, or what may be available? Not to worry! There are also non-elected positions you can take advantage of. The committee duties are posted on our website, www.awislavc.org. Click on the link "Become a volunteer" to indicate your interest in helping the chapter. 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 smashing success!

AWIS Annual Members Wine Tasting Event

By April Shifflet



On Saturday June 2, AWIS members met at the Wine Detective in Pasadena to get acquainted with current and potential future executive board members. The event was limited to members only. The Wine Detective offers a unique setting, with a wide variety of wines available for self-serve tasting. AWIS members tried new varietals, while enjoying several gourmet small plate selections to snack on. Members were able to socialize and network while enjoying a relaxing Saturday afternoon in downtown Pasadena. We hope to see more of our members at next year's annual meet-and-greet! <http://www.winedetective.com/>



LACMA: An Evening of Jazz

By April Shifflet

AWIS members continued their summer networking during a Friday evening potluck gathering at LACMA. Beginning at 6 pm on Friday evenings, LACMA hosts a jazz concert featuring a different musician each week. Attendees are welcome to bring picnic lunches and relax on the grounds. For this evening, the music was provided by Katisse, a high-energy woodwind musician who blends various styles to produce a unique sound. AWIS members enjoyed the music and the networking, as well as the food provided by members! Be sure to check LACMA's calendar for upcoming Friday Jazz concerts, and check the AWIS homepage (www.awislavc.org) for our next networking event!

Hollywood Sign Hike



By Lorena Griparic

August 18th was a beautiful sunny day, just perfect for the exploration of the Hollywood Hills. So, a dozen enthusiastic scientists (of both genders!) from UCLA, USC, City of Hope and biotech companies decided to look for stardom and come as close as possible to the famous Hollywood sign. It was definitely worthwhile! After a 45 minute hike, they reached the top where the spectacular view allowed them admire Los Angeles, while forgetting all about traffic jams and hustle-and-bustle of this metropolis.

But, the LAPD helicopter, closely hovering above their heads returned them to reality, reminding them that they were, together with the hundreds of other hikers on the trail, trespassing... Overall, it was a beautiful, enjoyable hike. Erin and April took care that nobody got dehydrated or hypoglycemic. We hope that next year this traditional hike is even more exciting!

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, or even host an AWIS event at your site, let us know! Email April at president@awislavc.org and become a new campus liaison for our growing chapter!

Benefit for Members: Interested in expanding your professional network? 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 Linked In, create your account
4. Search for the group “LAVC AWIS”
5. Select “Join this group” ♦