



Association for Women in Science

“Dedicated to achieving equity and full participation for women in science, technology, and engineering”

Mission

The Association for Women in Science (AWIS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to achieving equity and full participation of women in all areas of science, technology, and engineering.

The Chicago Area Chapter of the Association for Women in Science was founded in 1978 as a local chapter of the national organization.

For membership information, please visit us at:

www.awis-chicago.org

Contents

Headlines.....	page 2
Recent Events.....	page 3-4
Upcoming Events.....	page 5
AWIS Sponsors	page 6-7

Chicago Area Chapter Board Members

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Sandy Pearce, Ph.D.

Past President

Heather Behanna, Ph.D.

VP for Programs

Open

VP for Finance

Melanie Schroeder Patterson, Ph.D.

VP for Membership

Jenny Vrtis, Ph.D.

VP for Communications/ Public Relations

Jessica Reimer

VP for Outreach

Jen Crawford

Newsletter Editor

Kara Johnson, Ph.D.

Science Chicago Liaison

Renee Theiss



Election News

AWIS-CAC Welcomes New President

Chicago, IL

This summer, AWIS-CAC welcomed two members to new board positions. Sandy Pearce is our new President, and Melanie Schroeder Patterson is our new VP of Finance. We are sorry to see Heather's term

come to an end. She served two wonderful years as AWIS-CAC President, giving our chapter exceptional motivation and energy and inspiring many great programs. Heather will remain active on the Board and we look forward to the next two years with Sandy!



Past President, Heather Behanna (left), with new President, Sandy Pearce (right)

United States Welcomes New President

Chicago, IL

On November 4th, 2008, Barack Obama was elected the next president of the United States. Below is an excerpt from questions posed to the president-elect by the Association for Women in Science and the Society for Women Engineers.

Q: In a September 2006 report, *Beyond Bias and Barriers: Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Academic Science and Engineering*, the National Academies stated that, in order to maintain scientific and engineering leadership amid increasing economic and educational globalization, the United States must aggressively pursue the innovative capacity of all people, regardless of sex. Although women make up almost half of the U.S. workforce, they continue to be underrepresented in STEM professions,

particularly in the higher academic faculty ranks and leadership positions. How can we address the need for more women in STEM?

Obama: "... Women are significantly underrepresented in the STEM workforce, and especially in the leadership positions in research and academia. We need women in leadership roles both for their contribution and for the message of encouragement and opportunity that their presence sends to our daughters. We support a range of proactive measures that will open opportunities in science to women, such as requiring minority and female representation on government panels developing innovation and competitiveness strategies, and establishing mentoring programs to support women and underrepresented groups in STEM education



AP Photo

programs - two measures that I helped pass as part of the America COMPETES Act. We also support improved educational opportunities for all students, increased responsibilities and accountability for those receiving federal research funding, equitable enforcement of existing laws such as Title IX, continuation and strengthening of programs aimed at broader engagement in the STEM disciplines, full funding for the America COMPETES Act, and increased funding for the National Institutes of Health."

Recent Events



April

Bring-a-Friend

April's event was at Kafka Wine Company in Chicago. Participants enjoyed tasting wine and networking with other members of Chicago's scientific community.



May

Golf Lessons

In May, we learned to golf! AWIS-CAC organized four weekends of women's golf lessons offered through the Skokie Park District.



June

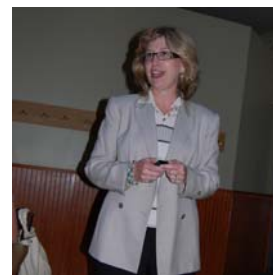
In June, we organized an outreach event with **Girls in the Game**. Girls in the Game offers programs to address the physical, mental, and emotional health of young girls. AWIS-CAC participated as volunteer "coaches", with a presentation by Dr. Elizabeth Kovacs, Director of the Alcohol Research Program at Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine. We discussed the negative effects of alcohol on the body, which included interactive examples that volunteers helped execute by getting the girls involved.



AWIS's Kara Johnson and Girls in the Game's Kara Niven help the girls "walk the line" in goggles that simulate the effect of alcohol on spatial perception.

Innovator Award Dinner and AWIS-CAC 30 Year Celebration

This year's Innovator Award went to Dr. Teresa Woodruff, Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Feinberg School of Medicine. In addition, Dr. Woodruff is the Executive Director of the Institute for Women's Health Research, Division Chief of the newly created Division of Fertility Preservation, and Professor of Neurobiology and Physiology, Weinberg School of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Woodruff serves as Associate Director for Basic Sciences in the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, the Associate Director of Center for Reproductive Science, and the Director of the Center for Reproductive Research. Dr. Woodruff's presentation was entitled: *Behind the Scenes: The Bench to the Bedside Story of Oncofertility*.



Dr. Teresa Woodruff



September

Science Chicago – Solar Photography



In September, AWIS and Harold and Washington College cosponsored middle-school aged students and their families in exploring the science of early printmaking using nothing more than the sun and basic cyanotype materials. Cyanotype photography uses the sun to develop images on chemically treated paper. Chemistry is an important part of the artistic process, and participants discussed chemistry, chemical reactions, and the interplay between chemistry and art.

October

Fall Kick-Off at Old Town Oil

Our fall kick-off event was at Old Town Oil. Old Town Oil provided beer, wine, bread, pesto, cheese, olives and all the oil & vinegar for tasting. They gave a brief lesson on Extra Virgin Olive Oil and Balsamic vinegars. Guests sampled the 25–30 oils and vinegars "on tap".



Meghan Pearce enjoys a taste of oil.

November

Effective Negotiation of Employment Contracts (Part I)

In November, we launched the first in our series of workshops on Contract Negotiation for Scientists. Kristi Nelson (Chen Nelson Roberts Ltd) and Noelle Brennan (Noelle Brennan & Associates Ltd) presented on effectively negotiating employment contracts. They discussed how and when to negotiate as well as common terms of an employment contract.



Kristi and Noelle present to a captive audience.

Upcoming Events



Science Chicago

For twelve months, beginning in September 2008, the city of Chicago and the surrounding suburbs will band together to execute an unparalleled program that will provide our community with unique opportunities to learn, create and explore in the electrifying world of science.

In addition to September's Solar Photography event, AWIS-CAC is sponsoring the following event:

Nano and Science Day at Northwestern

Date: Saturday, January 17th

This event will be run with the support of the Institute for Nanotechnology and Phi Lambda Upsilon and Northwestern University. It will involve a morning of demos and nanotechnology events for girls aged 12-16, followed by the chemistry "magic" show, open to all ages.

Visit www.awis-chicago.org for further details.

Negotiation Skills for Scientists

Follow-up sessions to **Effective Negotiation of Employment Contracts (Part I)** are planned for next year that will address contract negotiation in academic and industry environments.

Stay tuned for dates! Visit www.awis-chicago.org to find an outline of the workshop seminars.

AAAS and AWIS

AWIS National and the local chapter have a history of hosting a few events at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) conference every year.

Date: February 12-16, 2009

Location: Chicago Hyatt Regency

More information about these events coming soon on www.awis-chicago.org.



Gold Sponsor (\$5000 or Greater)

- 10 sponsored AWIS memberships
- Logo on the front page of our website (with link to company website) for one calendar year
- Logo on all advertisements for events for one calendar year
- ½ page advertisement in both installments of our newsletter
- Presence at our annual career panel
- Listing on the sponsorship page of our website
- AWIS involvement in company science outreach initiatives

Silver Sponsor (\$3000)

- 6 sponsored AWIS memberships
- Logo on advertisements for 3 events in one calendar year
- ¼ page advertisement in both installments of our newsletter
- Listing on the sponsorship page of our website
- AWIS involvement in company science outreach initiatives

Bronze Sponsor (\$1000)

- 2 sponsored AWIS memberships
- Logo on advertisements for 1 event in one calendar year
- 1/8 page advertisement in both installments of our newsletter
- Listing on the sponsorship page of our website
- AWIS involvement in company science outreach initiatives

Friend of AWIS (< \$1000)

- Listing on the sponsorship page of our website
- Name mentioned in our newsletter



2008 Bronze Sponsor: Baxter International Inc.

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