



**ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN
SCIENCE
PALO ALTO CHAPTER**
<http://www.pa-awis.org/>
<http://www.awis.org/>
May/June 2005

From the President

by Mirella Bucci

It is a predictable, yet unpredictable time of year. Summer is approaching quickly despite the persistence of the rain. Our chapter held our yearly elections (see the enclosed story) and will soon celebrate this year's recognition awards. We'll also acknowledge an up-and-coming local woman scientist with a monetary prize for college tuition. This year it will be a pleasure to meet her at the 11th Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet hosted by NCC-AWIS (that's the Northern California consortium of chapters that includes our chapter).

By the way, the process of picking a scholarship winner is a richly rewarding one according to the outgoing chairwoman of this committee, Lesley Murray. If you are interested in this position or hearing more about this position, please let me or Lesley know. Our contact information can be found on the back of this newsletter and on the website: www.pa-awis.org. Speaking of successors, we will soon begin a transition to a new Programs committee chairwoman, Amy Reilein. Marina Gelman, who has served in this position for over a year will be stepping down (she is pregnant, as you will read in another enclosed story!). This is a committee that plays an integral part of every meeting that we have. Marina has a crew of about 4 others who tackle the logistics including corresponding with the speaker (what a great networking opportunity!) and getting the food to the meetings (and ensuring that chocolate or their other favorite foods arrive). Katie Myhra and Susan Bernhard (to name a few) continue to work diligently to make these meetings happen without fail. We even occasionally have home-made goodies, like those bowls of Indian rice **that Jakkula, Lakshmi makes**. It's a great committee to be involved in. I hope that you'll continue to shake things up!

Upcoming Programs and Events

MAY

- May 4** – 11th Annual Awards Banquet, South SF
- May 17** – PA-AWIS Mentoring Meeting
- May 17** – ebAWIS Chapter Meeting, Chiron
- May 19** – PWHA meeting, San Mateo

JUNE

- TBD** – PA-AWIS Midsummer Networking Social

For more information on these upcoming events, please see flyers on pages 5 and 6, and Calendar of Events on page 7.

Congratulations Members!

- * Mirella Bucci, Chapter President, has started a new job at a healthcare advertising agency in San Francisco.
- * Marina Gelman, Program Chair, is expecting her first child in Q3.
- * Babette Heyer, Program Committee volunteer, recently had her first child, a boy.
- * Laurence Fayadat, Chapter VP, is engaged to be married this summer.
- * Xiang Yu, postdoc rep on Mentoring Committee, has accepted a faculty position in Neuroimmunology at the University of China, Shanghai.

Do you have personal news to share? Email the editor!

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2005 Board Election Results

by Staff correspondent

Each year in the March-April timeframe, PA chapter members vote for executive officers: President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer and Member-at-Large. One-year terms are renewable for a second year. This year, we elected a new Secretary - Iris Ferber. The other officers were confirmed for a second term: Mirella Bucci (pres), Laurence Fayadat (VP), Rachel Harte (Treasurer) and Debbie Bunin (Member-at-Large). CONGRATULATIONS to all our elected officers and Thank You for all the work you do on behalf of the Palo Alto AWIS chapter!

To learn more about your Elected Officers, and the Chairs of our ad hoc committees (such as Newsletter, Mentoring, Outreach, Industry Contacts) please go to our website www.pa-awis.org.

Think about how you can be more involved in AWIS this year. Get to know the Board members, ask how you can help - organize a special event, or join a committee!, or send news to the Editor. There are many ways to volunteer, and AWIS welcomes input from everyone!

What's Out There? Discussion Groups

Are you ready for Something Different? AWIS is encouraging a new series of 'What's Out There' free-style discussion and networking groups. This will be a good way to stay connected during the summer months of July and August when there are no scheduled chapter meetings. Would you like to join a group? If you have ideas, we'd like to hear from you. Reply to sbawis@yahoo.com! Meetings will be held at different locations and times, to encourage participation. Each group will focus on a particular industry or discipline, for example environmental science or chemistry, or biotech/medicine/mol biology. The groups will be informal, drop-in venues. Women with ALL levels of experience are encouraged to attend. The goal will be to meet and learn from other women in science, and help each person get a broader sense of what her career path can be. Spring into Action with AWIS! See calendar of event for the first biotech group meeting, and check the AWIS website for future dates.

Stanford Reaches Out Through the Tech

Stanford University, working in partnership with the Tech Museum, has put Stanford graduate students into active outreach within the community. Here, graduate students such as Erin Cline (former AWIS-PA Treasurer), talks with children and their parents while leading them through DNA spooling. Graduate students also prepare the materials needed for the wet lab at the Tech's Genetics with a Twist exhibit. They also research and answer questions on-line as part of the Ask a Geneticist project. Young girls such as these 1st - 5th graders can interact with and see female scientist in a new light!

Young Female Physicist Award

To honor the year of physics and celebration of Eistein's theory of relativity, our chapter sponsored an award for best physics project by a high school female student at the recent Synopsis Championship, the regional science fair of Santa Clara County.

The winner is Ms. Kristin E. Barker of Presentation High School for her project on "Persistent Holes in Non-Newtonian Fluids". Kristin came across this project topic while researching the internet for another idea. The explanations given by the web site really captured her interest. Kristin looked at corn starch mixed with water, oils and other materials to form non-newtonian fluids. Under certain vibration frequencies, these materials will spontaneously create and form holes that appear and disappear. Kristin took apart her father's stereo speakers in order to set a stage that can manipulative frequencies and create vibrations. She then observed, timed, and plotted the creation of holes in these various fluids under different frequencies. Her fascination with the topic and excitement in her work impressed the judges. She thoroughly researched her topic, designed the experiments, presented them well, had ideas on what other questions to pursue, and, obviously, had a great time! Our chapter awarded Kristin a \$100 cash prize, a book on female inventors, a DNA bracelet, and a certificate of achievement.

Thank you to all who donated an afternoon of time to volunteer as a judge at the science fair. Your interactions with students create a lasting and motivating impression. If you are interested in future opportunities to judge either local or regional science fairs, please sign up under Outreach on our chapter website.

MENTORING

Final Mentoring Program May 17, 2005

*by Adina Paytan and Susan Bernhard, co-Chairs,
Mentoring 2004-05*

AWIS Palo Alto sponsors four Mentoring Program dinner meetings per year on Stanford campus for mentors and protégées. Interested chapter members are also welcome. The program on May 17th will feature a panel discussion with four speakers who will talk about POSTDOCS. The topics will vary widely. We will hear about how to choose a lab, making a postdoc work, pros and cons of doing a postdoc or a second postdoc, alternatives to academic postdocs, and life after postdocs. So that we may plan dinner, please RSVP by May 13th to mentoring_awis@yahoo.com.

EVENTS

PWHA 2005 Annual Gala

Featuring Keynote Speaker Dr. Susan Love

Despite over a decade of research and more than \$1.7 billion spent, 110 women are dying from breast cancer every day. We continue to approach treatment for breast cancer in the same ways: surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. Yet, we still don't know how breast cancer starts or how to stop it.

The Dr. Susan Love Research Foundation is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to the prevention of breast cancer through innovation and generation of Education, Research and Advocacy. Please join us for our 2005 Annual Gala as we welcome author and one of the "founding mothers" of the breast cancer advocacy movement, Dr. Susan Love.

Thursday, May 19, 2005 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

San Mateo Marriott
1770 South Amphlett Blvd.
San Mateo, CA 94402
<http://pwha.org/Events.html>

11th Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet

by NCC-AWIS Chapter Representative

By the time you read this newsletter, the date (May 4) for the Awards Banquet will be very close. Although pre-registration is encouraged, it is usually possible to add a last minute name to our guest list. We hope that you will join us and that the Palo Alto chapter will be well represented among the guests.

This is our big annual AWIS PARTY, the gala event of the year for women in science. It will be held at a new location this year, Embassy Suites in So SF, and we think you will enjoy the fountains and atmosphere of the space. We will gather in the Sausalito/Tiburon Room, and will enjoy a delicious buffet.

The highlight of the evening will be the Awards and Scholarships. We will raise a cheer for 3 women who have achieved great things and been inspirational to others. The 2005 Judith Pool award will be presented to Dora Games, PhD (Elan). The 2005 Ellen Weaver award will be presented to Rebecca MacKenzie, MS (Roche). Carol Muller, PhD (MentorNet) will receive the 2005 Distinguished Professional award. We will post photos on our website after the event. All NCC-AWIS events are a joint effort by the Bay Area AWIS chapters, but there is always a core group who takes the lead. Mirella Bucci and Laurence Fayadat, (Pres and VP of Palo Alto Chapter), were instrumental in finding the location for the 2005 Banquet. They arranged the dinner along with Mary Alice Yund (NCC) who also prepared the program. Other key contributors include Martha Murari, Cathie Magowan, Leslie Murray, Miriam Valesco, Melissa Boes, Katy Korsemeyer, Joy Barnitz and Susan Bernhard. These ladies did the behind-the-scenes work and took care of the details that make an event like this a pleasant evening and a wonderful success. Thank you!

Do you know a woman scientist who deserves an AWIS Award? You may write a nomination at any time, and email to yund@worldnet.att.net. You do not need to include a formal CV, and you do not need to specify which award. Just describe the special qualifications of your nominee and the committee will consider your recommendation for the 2006 Banquet. More information about the awards may be found on our chapter website.

- When conflict arises, what matters is how you are perceived not what you meant.
- Get an experienced mentor – one who can counsel you but also give objective feedback.
- And most importantly, take ownership of your own career. Others can help, but you are the leader of yourself!

Meeting Highlight: February

Sally Wilder, an organization development consultant and executive coach, spoke at the February chapter meeting. Sally spoke about the 3 stages of leadership and some typical “blocks” that keep one from being a successful leader. It was a very engaging presentation with numerous interactions between Sally and the audience members.

The 3 levels of leadership are self-leaders, small-team leaders, and executive leaders. Sally emphasized that the key is to figure out your most comfortable level. The executive level is not best for everyone, and sometimes those who are promoted to or choose a higher level of management find themselves unhappy in that role. Moreover, it can be difficult to transition to a new level. Sally suggested we forgive all first time managers.

Self-leadership: those at this stage often are technical specialists who have full ownership control of a product. Often they are thrilled that they get to earn a living doing what they love to do.

Once you prove yourself as an adept technical expert, you will often be promoted to managing a few people. Such small team leaders usually have not been trained in team dynamics or leadership skills. They can have difficulties relinquishing ownership to subordinates, can be hyper-critical, fear failure, and/or resent being removed from the “hands on” technical tasks.

An executive leader has typically spent a long time as a small team leader and as a result often is no longer a technical specialist. They now must worry about how to build or change a corporate culture and deal with organization structure, hiring and firings, strategic vision, finance, sales, and legal concerns. An executive needs to accept their loss of technical expertise and accept a revised definition of “real work” to be successful. A typical “block” for the transition to executive level involves worrying about fitting in, reluctance to play the executive game, and not wanting to be viewed as an outsider by prior coworkers who are not at the executive level.

Sally’s advice for those transitioning to a new leadership role:

- Take charge of owning your new role.
- Start by knowing your strengths and weaknesses.
- Realize that everyone is struggling inside a company, no matter what their level.
- Try incorporating social occasions into the workplace to help instill a team mentality.
- Freedom comes from knowing you are not perfect.

Meeting Highlight: March

Dr Lebkowski shared a brief overview of how stem cells and current stem cell lines are actually generated, along with a brief history of the stem cell research industry and it’s great potential in gene therapy and other medical fields. Detailed characterization of particular cell lines shows them to be suitable for human products based on current FDA guidelines, and Dr. Lebkowski reviewed what issues lie ahead for a stem-cell based product to actually be produced and used. Biochemical, histological, and phenotypical data on the generation of bona fide cardiac myocytes and oligodendroglia from stem cells was shared as riveting and pioneering examples of current research and applications development.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Santa Clara University is looking to hire five lecturers for terms beginning in Fall 2005. Course load varies with the different positions. A sample position announcement is below.

Santa Clara University, Chemistry Department -
Chemistry Lecturer
Santa Clara University
Chemistry Department

The Chemistry Department at Santa Clara University, a Jesuit institution with an ACS-approved undergraduate program, is seeking an academic year lecturer (non-tenure track) for a two-year term beginning Fall 2005.

Ph.D. in organic chemistry is a minimum qualification required for this position. Prior teaching experience preferred. The selected candidate will be required to teach a total of 8 quarter courses that may include lecture and laboratory courses in organic chemistry and general chemistry. Please refer to our website <http://www.scu.edu/chemistry> for more information.

Send Curriculum Vitae, undergraduate and graduate transcripts, a statement of interest and experience in teaching these or related subjects, a statement detailing experience with individuals from ethnic or racial groups underrepresented in the sciences, and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Brian McNelis, Department of Chemistry, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA 95053.

May Meeting - Association for Women In Science (AWIS), Palo Alto

Neurological Basis of Object and Face Perception

**Kalanit Grill -Spector, Ph.D.
Stanford University**

How are shapes and objects represented in the human brain? For humans, object recognition is a natural, effortless skill that occurs within a few hundreds of milliseconds, yet, it is one of the least understood aspects of visual perception. Dr. Grill-Spector utilizes functional imaging (fMRI), computational techniques and behavioral methods to investigate visual object recognition and other high-level visual processes. Her research investigates the underlying representations and cortical mechanisms that subservise recognition, and the relation between these neural processes, and our visual perception of the world.

DATE:	Thursday, May 26th
TIME:	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
LOCATION:	PARC Auditorium 3333 Coyote Hill Rd, Palo Alto

Schedule

7:00-7:30 pm	Networking and light supper
7:30-7:45 pm	Announcements
7:45-8:45 pm	Program
8:45-9:00 pm	Discussion

? ***Welcome!! The Meeting is free. You don't need to be a Member to attend.
We ask for a \$5 donation to help cover the cost of food.
All scientists, students, and their friends are welcome. Men too!***

Directions from the North:

Take Hwy 280 SOUTH, exit at Page Mill Rd and at the bottom of the ramp turn LEFT and head towards Palo Alto. Turn RIGHT onto Coyote Hill Road. PARC (formerly Xerox PARC) is on the left, just past the crest of the hill. Enter main door and look for signs to the Auditorium.

Directions from the South:

Take Hwy 280 NORTH, exit at Page Mill Road, turn RIGHT at the bottom of the off ramp and head up hill towards Palo Alto. Turn RIGHT onto Coyote Hill Road. PARC is on the left, (follow directions above).

ALTERNATE : Take Hwy 101, exit at Oregon Expressway heading west towards Stanford. As you cross El Camino, Oregon is renamed Page Mill Road. Follow Page Mill Road WEST, cross Foothill Expressway, and take a LEFT on Coyote Hill Road. PARC is on the left, (follow directions above to Auditorium).

LOCAL (from Stanford): Take Foothill SOUTH towards Los Altos, and turn RIGHT at Page Mill Road heading WEST. Turn LEFT onto Coyote Hill Road. PARC is on the left, (follow directions above to Auditorium).

See also <http://www.parc.com/company/directions.html>

Midsummer Networking & Ice Cream Social

We will enjoy fresh fruit and ice cream with informal networking, and then play structured networking games.

- ? We will introduce an effective networking game that enables you to meet and exchange information with many people in a very short time.
- ? Afterwards, we will break up into small groups, based on interests.
- ? You will get to meet EVERYONE in an informal, friendly setting!
- ? Come to polish up your 'introduction', exchange cards, share networking skills, make new friends, and find out who's doing what in Bay Area science.

DATE: June (Date TBA)
TIME: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
LOCATION: PARC Auditorium
3333 Coyote Hill Rd, Palo Alto
PLEASE RSVP at <http://www.acteva.com/go/pa-awis>

** Bring your business card or facsimile to be included in the contact sheet.

Schedule

7:00-7:30 pm Networking and light Supper
7:30-7:45 pm Announcements
7:45-8:45 pm Program
8:45-9:00 pm Wrapup

- ? **Welcome!! You do not need to be a Member to attend.**
- ? **We ask for a \$5 donation to help cover the cost of food.**
- ? **All scientists, students, and their friends are welcome! Men too!**

Directions from the North:

Take Hwy 280 SOUTH, exit at Page Mill Rd and at the bottom of the ramp turn LEFT and head towards Palo Alto. Turn RIGHT onto Coyote Hill Road. PARC (formerly Xerox PARC) is on the left, just past the crest of the hill. Enter main door and look for signs to the Auditorium.

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CALENDAR of EVENTS

ebAWIS Chapter Meeting:

<http://www.ebawis.org/ebevents.htm>

Tuesday, May 17
Chapter Meeting of East Bay AWIS
Location: Chiron Corp, Bldg 4,
Emeryville CA
Time: 6:30p-8:30p

Program: Dr. Kimberlee A. Shauman,
Assistant Professor of Sociology at
the University of California, Davis

Come to the May ebAWIS chapter
meeting to hear Dr. Shauman
present her findings from her book
Women in

Science: Career Processes and
Outcomes (co-authored with Yu Xie).
This book presents the results of a
systematic examination of gender
differences in the science and
engineering career trajectory.

Palo Alto Chapter Meeting:

May Chapter Meeting of PA-AWIS
PARC
7:00p-9:00p.
Date and Speaker TBA
Stay tuned and check the AWIS
website for details.

Awards Banquet

May 4
11th Annual NCC-AWIS Awards and
Recognition Banquet.

Embassy Suites in So SF
6:00-9:00pm.

Judith Pool, Ellen Weaver and
Distinguished Professional awards,
and scholarships will be presented.
Festive party with women in science
from all over the Bay Area. \$45.
Register on Acteva, see www.pa-awis.org for details.

What's Out There

April 28, 6:30-8:30
Stanford Park Hotel lobby/patio

Organized by Geetha Shankar and
Susan Bernhard

We will meet to chat and share
experiences and informal mentoring.
Grad students, postdocs, RAs, PhD
bench scientists, managers,
marketers, staffers are all welcome.
The goal will be to meet and learn
from others, and help each person
get a broader sense of what her
career path can be. Future
meetings may be held at the Cantor
Art Center patio cafe at Stanford,
Sunset Walks around the Dish, or
weekend morning walks on the
Baylands.

PA-AWIS Mentoring Meeting

May 17
PA-AWIS Mentoring Meeting
Stanford campus
Mitchell Bldg.
7:00p-9:00p

The program will be a panel
discussion with 4 speakers focused
on Postdocs. The diversity of
panelist's experience and choices
will be emphasized. How to choose
a postdoc, how to make it work,
industry vs academic postdocs,
second postdocs, finding that first
job. Please RSVP by May 13th by
sending email to
mentoring_awis@yahoo.com.

sfAWIS Chapter Meeting:

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

WILS

Women Leaders in Science
Seminar Series

Parnassus HSW 300
UCSF

For details, please visit:
itsa.ucsf.edu/~wils/WILS.html

Institute for Women and Technology

www.iwt.org

Sacramento AWIS Chapter Meeting

www.nccawis.org/chapters/sacvalley/sacvalleyhp.html

Professional Business Women of California

www.pbwc.org

Healthcare Businesswoman's Association

www.hbanet.org/chapters/sanfran.asp

Women Chemist's Committee

www.calacs.org



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Northern California Chapters Representative	open	This could be you!

Chapter dues \$25.00 per year. Student/unemployed \$10.00. Membership in National AWIS required. Pick up an application at a chapter meeting or visit the web site!



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ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE
PALO ALTO CHAPTER

FIRST CLASS

DATED MATERIAL