

2006 Committee of the Status of Women in Physics Annual Report
Sherry J Yennello, Chair

The CSWP had a very busy year both continuing successful activities and starting new ventures. The CSWP met twice during the year (10 April in College Park, MD and 16 October in Chicago, IL) and had conference calls as needed in between meetings.

APS meeting events

The CSWP sponsored events at both the March and April APS meetings.

Events at APS March Meeting 2006

CSWP organized two invited sessions: “US Women in Physics: An International Perspective” and “What Has Actually Changed in Physics Departments for Women, Graduate Students, and Others?”. Amy Herhold of ExxonMobil was the speaker for the CSWP/FIAP Breakfast.

Events at the APS April Meeting 2006

CSWP organized two invited sessions: “Pioneering Women Astronomers” co-sponsored with the Forum on the History of Physics (FHP), and “Women in Science Policy”, co-sponsored with the Forum on Physics and Society (FPS). Additionally the CSWP/Division of Particle and Fields (DPF) cosponsored a luncheon with informal remarks by three women physicists followed by a question and answer period. CSWP and COM co-sponsored a reception on Monday evening, April 24.

Programming for the 2007 APS meetings was planned as follows.

March 2007 Program chair, Andrea Liu, has put together an invited session on “Balancing Career and Children”. The speakers will be Sue Coppersmith/Univ Wisconsin, Marija Drndic/UPenn, Ka Yee Yee/UChicago, Nadya Mason/Unillinois, and Katharine Vollmayr-Lee/Bucknell

April 2007 Program chair, Sherry Yennello, planned an invited session on “Enhancing the Physics Enterprise through Gender Equity”. Speakers will be Alice Agogino discussing the “Beyond Bias and Barriers” NAS report; Sue Rosser presenting highlights of “Recruit and Advance” and Margaret Murnane talking about “Best Practices for Recruiting and Retaining Women in Physics”.

Site Visits

A site visit team of Jolie Cizewski/Rutgers, Sherry Yennello/TAMU, Camille Bibeau/LLNL, and Kris Bertness/NIST-Boulder had a successful visit to JILA on October 12-13. The visit grew out of last year’s visit to NIST/Gaithersburg and NIST/Boulder. The team had an extended close-out session with JILA

Professional Skills Development Workshops

Workshops modeled after the COACH professional development sessions were presented the day preceding the March and April meetings. 30 tenure-track and newly tenured women participated at each of the meetings. The evaluations were very positive. In 2007, workshops will be offered for women in industry and national labs.

Workshop for Department Heads

The CSWP began planning for a Gender Equity workshop for department chairs and national lab division directors modeled after the successful workshop put on by the chemistry community in January 2006. Funding was secured for this workshop from the DOE and NSF. The planning for this workshop continues and it is scheduled for May 2007.

Department of Energy Funding for Women

Springer spearheaded an effort to gather data on perceived gender differences in DOE funding. (The RAND report, "Gender Differences in Major Federal External Grant Programs", determined that although NSF was funding men and women equally, no data was available from the Department of Energy.) Data was collected on funding received both by male and female PIs in nuclear theory as well as and how many women post-docs and women students were supported on these grants. The data showed that on average women receive less funding per month than their male counterparts. This data was communicated to the DOE and we continue to try to work with the DOE to understand these differences and encourage the DOE to begin tracking such data.

Gazette

Two issues of the Gazette were published with thought provoking guest editorials on "What You Can Do – A Guide to Creating a Level Playing Field in Physics" and "Dual Career Couples – Problem or Opportunity?" These can be found on line at <http://www.aps.org/programs/women/reports/gazette/>

M. Hildred Blewett Scholarship

Elizabeth Freeland was selected as the second recipient of the M. Hildred Blewett Scholarship. Elizabeth is currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, an internationally recognized institution for undergraduate and graduate study of art and design. She will work at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory pursuing research in the field of theoretical elementary particle physics, in particular in the sub-discipline of lattice gauge theory. She is part of the Fermilab Lattice Collaboration. The Blewett Scholarship will allow her to devote herself full-time to research.