

Committee on the Status of Women in Physics
Annual Report 2007
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CSWP Chair, 2007

The CSWP continued with many ongoing projects and several new ones in 2007. The committee met twice during the year, March 29 in College Park, MD and October 22 in Detroit, MI.

Gender Equity Conference The committee assisted in planning and executing a very successful conference on Gender Equity in the Physics Community held at ACP in May 2007 which was funded by the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation. About 50 physics department chairs and 14 managers of physics divisions at national laboratories participated. The conference included both plenary and breakout sessions, and featured an interactive performance by the University of Michigan's CRLT (Center for Research on Learning and Teaching) Players. The final report will be published in spring 2008. An interactive website where chairs/managers can enter their progress with various issues has been developed. A follow-up conference is tentatively planned for 2009.

Professional Skills Development Workshops

Two workshops were offered prior to the March and April APS annual meetings. Women from industry and research facilities participated (34 pp in March and 12 pp in April) and gave very positive evaluations. A proposal was submitted to NSF to continue the workshops for another three years, targeting post docs and tenure-track women faculty (2008), post docs and tenured women faculty (2009), and post docs and women in industry/labs (2010). Women from underrepresented minorities will be especially encouraged to attend.

Annual Meetings

Program Chair for the March 2007 annual meeting in Denver was Andrea Liu, who planned a session on "Women in Academic Science: Balancing Career and Children". A networking breakfast was co-sponsored with the Forum on Industrial and Applied Physics; Lisa Dhar, InPhase Technologies was the speaker. The Program Chair for the April 2007 meeting in Jacksonville, FL was Sherry Yennello who planned a session on "Strengthening the Physics Enterprise". In addition, CSWP again co-sponsored a luncheon with the Division of Particles and Fields; the informal speaker was Joanne Hewett/SLAC. The informal breakfasts and luncheons have proven to be popular with students as well as others and generally average about 40 attendees.

The committee requested \$5000 to be used towards modest grants of \$200 each to help defray the costs of childcare for attendees at the APS annual meetings. In addition, they asked that an area at the March meeting be set aside for caregivers and children to relax and an online bulletin board set up for caregivers to exchange information about babysitting. No supervised childcare will be provided however.

Site Visits

Two Climate for Women in Physics site visits were conducted at Indiana University and Vanderbilt University. The Indiana team was comprised of Kathie Newman, team leader, Ani Aprahamian, and Nancy Haegel. The Vanderbilt team included Nancy Haegel, team leader, Pepi Fabiano, Laurie McNeil, and Adriana Moreo. The committee continues to work on follow-up reporting procedures after the visits.

Recognition for Increasing Diversity

CSWP explored the idea of some sort of recognition (not an award) for increasing diversity, which could be given to an individual or a group. This will be discussed with the Committee on Minorities.

Blewett Scholarship

Archana Dubey was selected as the winner of the scholarship for 2007. She is a theoretical physicist who is currently a Lecturer at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. She will investigate the electronic structure of oxyhemoglobin.

Female friendly website

An email reminder to physics department chairs resulted in many departments updating their information on what makes their department particularly welcoming to women. The website is interactive and chairs will be asked to update their information annually. 151 institutions have responded to date.

Gazette

Two issues were published in 2007. Guest editors were Catherine Fiore, MIT (fall) and Peter Sheldon (spring).

Forum on Graduate Student Affairs

The committee continues to hear reports from FGSA on its activities and to reach out to graduate students. Two graduate students were asked to participate in the Gender Equity Conference in May.