

Committee on the Status of Women in Physics
Annual Report 2009
Mary Hall Reno, University of Iowa
CSWP Chair, 2009

Annual March and April APS Meetings

The CSWP is allocated one session each for the March and April national meetings. The sessions are typically shared with other units to extend the impact of the CSWP allocation. The March 2009 CSWP session was coordinated by Eliane Lesser of the CSWP and Cherrill Spencer of the FIP on Panel discussion: “Around the world in 180 minutes: Differences and similarities among women physicists”. An April 2009 CSWP session, coordinated by Mary Hall Reno of the CSWP and co-sponsored by the Division of Particles and Fields, was held on “Women in Experimental High Energy Physics: Science and Career Paths”. Two other sessions were cosponsored with the GGR, DAP and COM on “Women and Minorities in Multi-messenger Astronomy of Gamma Ray Bursts”, and Panel Discussion: “Women and Minorities in Gravity: Science and Career Paths”. Networking events were co-sponsored by the CSWP at each of the meetings as well: a breakfast at the March meeting with the Forum on Industrial and Applied Physics, and a lunch co-sponsored by the Division of Particles and Fields. Department Chairs at the April meeting were hosted at a lunch cosponsored by the CSWP, at which CSWP programs were discussed and Cherry Murray discussed some of her priorities as APS president.

Childcare Grants

Grants of up to \$400, funded by a grant from the Elsevier Foundation and supplemented with funds from the American Physical Society, were available this year. The grants are meant to cover childcare expenses associated with attendance at the national March and April meetings, whether the expenses are incurred at the meeting or at home. They are available to both men and women. CSWP members have made contact with some divisions to encourage the development of similar programs for divisional meetings.

Gender Equity Conference Follow-up: Gender Equity Conversations

The Gender Equity Project, with the conference in 2007 and report in 2008 has been followed up with a visit program entitled “Gender Equity Conversations.” With a few facilitators trained prior to the April 2009 APS meeting, a physics department can address gender issues locally. Rather than being evaluative in nature, the gender equity conversations are meant to help stimulate discussions about climate issues and help departments formulate an action plan. So far, there have been visits to Notre Dame, Brown and the University of Houston. Other departments are encouraged to request team visits.

Professional Skills Development Workshops

Professional skills development workshops, funded by an NSF grant, are offered the day before

the March and April APS meetings. In 2009, senior women faculty and postdoctoral scholars were targeted. Women from underrepresented minorities were especially encouraged to attend. Facilitated by Nancy Houfek, Lee Warren, Jane Tucker, Barbara Butterfield, and Ernestine Taylor, the workshops were attended by a total of 57 women. Feedback from participants has been uniformly positive. Next year is the last year of the current three year grant. PIs Sherry Yennello and Theodore Hodapp have applied to NSF for funding for another three years (2011-2013)

Site Visit Program

The very successful site visit program assessing institutional the climate for women in physics continued this year with multiple site visits, including some co-sponsored with the Committee on Minorities. Site visits were made to the University of Oregon, the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory (with the Committee on Minorities), Johns Hopkins University, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (with the Committee on Minorities). There are multiple requests pending for future site visits.

Blewett Scholarship Program

A subcommittee of the CSWP selects the winners of the M. Hildred Blewett Scholarship. In 2009, three women received the award: Klejda Bega at Columbia University, Janice Wynn Guikema at Johns Hopkins University and Marija Nikolic-Jaric at the University of Manitoba.

IUPAP Follow-up

The IUPAP meeting occurred in 2008 in Seoul, Korea, and attendees returned from the meeting with enthusiasm to continue to address gender equity issues in physics nationally. Y. Zastavker is planning to lead the development of the First National Workshop on Women in Physics, to foster discussions about pipeline issues and educational issues.

CSWP Gazette

The Gazette is published twice annually. The guest editors for 2009 were Yevgeniya Zastavker (spring issue) and Nancy Haegel (fall issue).

Committee on Education

Through updates by Ted Hodapp, the CSWP has been apprised of the Committee on Education's work at all levels.

The Committee on the Status of Women, with a membership of Premala Chandra, Nancy Haegel, Kawtar Hafidi, Apriel Hodari, Eliane Lesser, Lidija Sekaric, Saeqa Vrtilek, Yevgeniya Zastavker and Mary Hall Reno, met together with Theodore Hodapp, Sue Otwell and Monica Plisch of the APS and past chair Catherine Fiore. The group meetings occurred on April 8, 2009 and October 26, 2009, with occasional telephone meetings as needed during the year.