

CSWP The Committee on the Status of Women in Physics

Summary Report, mid-year 2001 to fall 2002

Submitted by Barbara Jones, Chair

The CSWP continues a major activity in our well-known site visits. Through this program, teams of women physicists visit physics departments to assess the climate for women in the departments, and to make recommendations to improve the climate for women undergraduates, graduate students and faculty. CSWP makes the visits by invitation of the host institution only. Visits tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2001 were postponed until this spring due to the terrorist attacks and resulting uncertainties of travel. Cynthia Keppel, coordinator of the Climate for Women in Physics site visit program, reports that the visit to the Argonne National Laboratory in January 2002 went very well. Team leader Millie Dresselhaus and her large team of 9 members were able to talk with many individuals at the lab and to discern problems very quickly. Argonne will submit a follow-up report shortly. Site visits also occurred to the University of Wisconsin on April 26 (Margaret Murname, team leader) and to the University of Iowa (Bunny Clark, team leader) on May 3, 2002. Laurie McNeil (University of North Carolina) will chair a site visit to University of Minnesota in February 2003. Jolie Cizewski (Rutgers) will chair a team visit to Purdue, also in February. There are also plans for a combined CSWP-COM site visit to NASA later this year.

A new venture by CSWP has been the establishment of "Friends of CSWP." To make it easier for all interested members of APS to participate in the work of the CSWP, the Committee has established a grass-roots group of "Friends of the CSWP" who want to work with the CSWP to understand and improve the status of women in physics. "Friends" is set up as a moderated listserv, open to all APS members (both men and women). "Friends" hear by e-mail what the Committee is doing, and what the Committee hears about the status of women in physics. Friends are asked to suggest new approaches for the Committee, and to help carry out the work of the Committee in their own scientific communities and workplaces. For more information, or to join, please visit the website <http://www.aps.org/educ/cswp/friends.html>.

The CSWP organizes activities at both the March and April Meetings. This year at the March meeting, there were five different events. Dongqi Li organized a very effective "Survival Skills for Successful Women Physicists" workshop. There were 42 registrants for the workshop, which included a panel discussion of five successful women physicists, followed by a session led by a professional trainer, Sandra Shullman of the Executive Development Group of Columbus, OH. There was the yearly reception, co-sponsored with COM, as well as the traditional networking breakfast with speaker, co-sponsored with FIAP. In addition, to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Maria Goeppert-Mayer Award, there was a panel discussion featuring several of the very earliest awardees, as well as this year's awardee, followed by a reception. Finally, CSWP sponsored an invited session featuring APS team members from the IUPAP Conference on Women in Physics which was March 7-9, 2002 in Paris. Chair Meg Urry and other speakers Roman Czujko (AIP), Beverly Hartline, Katharine Gebbie, and an early career participant gave an informal progress report on the meeting. At the April meeting, in addition to a reception and networking breakfast, there was an invited session featuring prominent women astronomers, as

well as a roundtable follow-up on the IUPAP meeting. A similarly full program of activities is planned for next March and April, including a shared invited technical session with GMAG in March, featuring outstanding women speakers.

Another continuing activity of CSWP is the APS/IBM Research Internship for Undergraduate Women, with the goal of encouraging more young women to go to graduate school and to continue in physics and related fields. Interns work at one of three IBM research sites in the U.S. for the summer, and in addition receive a mentor and \$2500 grant. The program receives nearly 200 applicants each year of very high caliber, and of these approximately 10 are chosen as interns. CSWP contributes the advertising, which consists of multiple web postings and email to each physics chair, as well as serves as a clearinghouse for reception of all application packets.

This year saw the long-anticipated and planned-for publication of an updated version of the booklet "Physics in Your Future", which conveys the exciting possibilities of a career in physics to middle and high school girls. Copies of this four-color booklet are available at no charge to students and their parents, educators, guidance counselors, and groups who work with young women. The booklet turned out extremely well, and we encourage all readers of this report to check it out, if you have not already. Ordering information, as well as a free downloadable pdf version, are available on the CSWP web site.

Other activities for which there is not sufficient space to describe are the twice-yearly publication of the Gazette, and efforts to increase the number of women Fellows, invited speakers, and prize awardees.
