

Committee on Status of Women in Physics Annual Report -- 1998

October 28, 1998

The members of the Committee on Status of Women in Physics for 1998 are: Neal Abraham (DePauw University), Beverly Berger (Oakland University), Peggy Cebe, Chair 1998 (Tufts University), Shu Chang (Xerox Corporation), Sally Dawson (Brookhaven National Laboratory), Elsa Garmire (Dartmouth College), Marjorie Olmstead, Vice Chair 1998 (University of Washington), Linda Valhala (Old Dominion University), Barbara Whitten (Colorado College).

CSWP held two business meetings this year (from November 1997 to November 1998): March 15, 1998 in Los Angeles in conjunction with the APS March Meeting, and October 4, 1998 in Washington, DC.

CSWP undertook three major tasks this year, in addition to our regular activities. These tasks were: 1. planning for the Centennial; 2. creation of a poster for distribution and use at the Centennial; and, 3. initiation of an effort to nominate women physicists for fellowship in APS. These activities are outlined first, followed by a summary of our regularly scheduled activities.

Special Activities for 1998

1. Planning for the Centennial

CSWP will staff a display booth at the Centennial in Atlanta. The display comprises a backboard picture gallery of "Women Doing Physics" and explanatory text. The pictures have been collected by Tara McLoughlin by solicitation. In front of the backboard will be a computer on which the "Archive of the Contributions of Women to Physics" will be accessed from the hard drive. Dr. Berger has taken the lead on the display arrangement and preparation of the computer to present the Archive. At the booth, copies of the CSWP Gazette and poster (see below) will be available to the public.

Dr. Olmstead has arranged a very exciting symposium program for the Centennial, including one Centennial invited session titled "Breakthroughs of Women in Physics" which will feature as speakers Martha Krebs, Esther Conwell, Johanna Levalt Sengers, Gail Hanson, and Mary Gaillard. A second joint symposium with Forum on History is also planned. CSWP was deeply concerned about the planned APS Centennial poster which contains Andy Warhol's picture of Marilyn Monroe. CSWP wrote a letter to Brian Schwartz requesting the removal of this picture from the APS Centennial Poster. CSWP has not yet had a formal response about this issue.

2. Creation of CSWP Poster

CSWP has undertaken creation and distribution of a color poster "Celebrate Women in Physics." With support from the APS, the poster master print and 12,000 copies will be made. The APS publications department is assisting with graphic design and printing. Pictures were collected by

Tara McLoughlin. The poster will be handed out at the CSWP Centennial display booth, and distributed by direct mailings to university physics departments. Joint mailings with AAPT are also planned, to give the greatest exposure possible.

3. Nomination of Women for APS Fellowship

CSWP has developed a grass roots campaign strategy for nominating women to APS fellowship. Each member of CSWP is taking responsibility for compiling a slate of nominees for her APS division. Individual CSWP members are responsible for contacting the division nominating committee, and arranging for sponsorship of the women candidates.

Regular Activities for 1998

1. Symposia at National Meetings

CSWP sponsored two symposia titled "Beyond the Ivory Tower: Educating Physicists for Careers in Government and Industrial Laboratories". The first symposium was held in conjunction with the APS March Meeting in Los Angeles, and was jointly sponsored by the Forum on Industrial and Applied Physics. The speakers were: Barbara Wilson (Jet Propulsion Laboratory), Mary Young (Hughes Research Laboratory), Barbara Jones (IBM Almaden Laboratory), and Cherry Murray (Lucent Technologies). An audience of about 200 people (many of them graduate students) attended this session and engaged the speakers with many questions.

The second symposium was held in conjunction with the APS April Meeting in Columbus, and was jointly sponsored by Forum on Education. The speakers were: Beverly Hartline (Office of Science and Technology Policy), Katharine Gebbie (NIST), Joanne Woestman (Ford Research Laboratory), and Ann Von Lehmen (Bell Communications). This session was also very well attended, with an audience of about seventy.

These two sessions formed the basis for an article soon to be published in "Academe" titled "Beyond the Ivory Tower." The article was reprinted in the CSWP Gazette Fall '98 issue.

2. Climate for Women Site Visits

CSWP continues the site visit program, with one visit completed (to University of California at San Diego), and two others planned for fall '98 (Princeton University and University of Washington). The team for UCSD was lead by Margaret Munrane who was joined by Anne Kernan and Lillian McDermott.

The Princeton visit is scheduled for November 1998. The team leader is Bunny Clark (Ohio State), joined by Glennys Farrar (New York University), Melissa Franklin (Harvard), Kate Kirby (Harvard-Smithsonian Observatory), Cherry Murray (Lucent Technologies), and Jacqueline van Gorkum (Columbia).

Dr. Whitten has taken charge of the site visit program, arranging the members of the visiting committee and interfacing between the schools requesting the visits. Costs for the site visit team

leader are borne by CSWP. The host department pays for the expenses of the other team members.

CSWP is contemplating eventually visiting industrial physics labs for the similar purpose of assessing the climate for women physicists. Recognizing that the environment in industry is quite different from that of the university, CSWP feels it can not send a team solely comprising academic women physicists to assess an industrial lab. Therefore, CSWP over the next two years will be recruiting women industrial physicists to participate in the existing university site visit program, so that a cadre of seasoned veterans will be in place to lead the industrial site visits.

3. Archive of the Contributions of 20th Century Women

to Physics Work on the Archive, lead by Nina Byers (UCLA) is continuing. As of November 1998, over 60 full citations are able to be viewed at the Archive website:

<http://www.physics.ucla.edu/~cwp/> The Archive presently features women physicists who made their contributions to physics prior to 1976. The Archive will be featured prominently at the CSWP Centennial Display Booth, where it will be seen on an iMAC computer. Some photos from the Archive may be also used in the picture gallery on the backboard of the display. Dr. Dawson interacted with Dr. Byers to explore possibilities for creating a CD-ROM. Ultimately, CSWP decided not to create the CD-ROM, but concentrate resources on a poster instead. This decision was made after considering the difficulties involved in the creation of a CD-ROM, including costs, and access to the UCLA computers, as well as the desire to feature contemporary women physicists.

Dr. Byers and her team have done an outstanding job on the Archive, providing a unique and valuable resource to highlight the work of women in physics. According to Betty Anderson (cited from the CSWP Fall '98 Gazette) the site is visited by about 500 viewers per week, "primarily physicists, teachers, college and pre-college students, librarians, and historians." CSWP sent a letter of thanks to Dr. Byers for her fine work on this project.

4. Women in Industry Breakfast

At the March Meeting of the APS, CSWP and Forum on Industrial and Applied Physics co-hosted a breakfast, attended by about 30 people. The breakfast speaker was Esther Conwell from Xerox Corporation. After Dr. Conwell's speech, there was an extended question and answer period. Many of the women stayed after breakfast and networked in small groups. This is a very successful event, and one which CSWP plans to continue. Most of the participants at the breakfast were also attendees at the March Meeting, and a large number were graduate student women who are interested in finding out more about careers in industry. Dr. Chang has taken on responsibility for organizing the breakfast meeting in Atlanta.

5. Travel Grants

This year, 40 institutions were awarded travel grants to host 80 women physicists as seminar speakers. Each institution must invite two women speakers; CSWP pays the travel expenses of one of the women. For 1998-99 academic year, 17 institutions have applied for travel grant

funding. CSWP views the travel grants as an important program which provides departments with an incentive to diversify their Colloquia by bringing in women speakers.

The Ohio Section Fall Meeting was held in October (jointly with the Ohio Section of The American Vacuum Society and the Ohio Materials Network). Using funding from the Travel Grants, the organizers of the program on "Scanning Probe Microscopy" invited five speakers, all of whom were women!

6. Gazette

Dr. Katharine Gebbie (1996 Chair of CSWP) is the Editor for the Fall '98 issue of the Gazette, the official newsletter of CSWP. Articles in this issue include: "Culture of the Science and Technology world" by Mary Good, Report on the Online Archive, APS Outreach Programs for Minorities and Women, "Beyond the Ivory Tower" (reprinted from Academe), notes from a NIST Intern, and several book reviews.

A winter '99 issue will be prepared in December as a Centennial Preview issue. Prof. Peggy Cebe (1998 Chair of CSWP) will be the Editor.

7. Miscellaneous (prepared with assistance from Tara McLoughlin)

Speakers List - This year's edition of the Colloquium Speakers list has presently 322 women physicists listed.

CSWP website - Dr. Vahala has taken the lead in monitoring the CSWP website, most notably adding links of interest to the Women in Science and Engineering Page. In celebration of the Centennial, the Committee plans to enhance the page over the next few months, adding photographs of women in physics, as well as an online version of the "Celebrate Women in Physics" poster.

WIPHYS (Women in Physics Listserv) - A summary of this CSWP resource from the CSWP webpage states "Over 750 subscribers from around the world exchange advice, network, and discuss issues of interest to women in physics." This year, a searchable database of the WIPHYS archive was added at: http://www.aps.org/educ/cswp/wip_srch.cfm.

Roster of Women and Minorities in Physics - Thirty Universities or National Labs used the roster to assist them in identifying qualified women and minorities as candidates for job postings in 1998. Currently, 3200 women physicists are listed.

This report is respectfully submitted by:
Peggy Cebe, 1998
Chair of CSWP