

AWIS NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement: The Association for Women in Science, Inc. (AWIS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the achievement of equity and full participation of women in all areas of science and technology

Reaching Out To Future Scientists

By Cathy Manner

Using only ordinary cabbage juice and several common household items, AWIS Outreach Committee members performed chemistry magic at Hope Elementary School's Science Day in Carlsbad on Feb. 22 and the Girl Scout Science After-School Program in Santee on Feb. 27. These annual events allow students to experience the fun of science through hands-on activities with volunteers ranging from rocket scientists to animal biologists.

The AWIS team (Anna-Maria Hays, Alycen Nigro, and Cathy Manner) dazzled 3rd through 6th grade students with an exploration of pH chemistry. In a brief introductory lecture the kids learned that liquids can be classified into three groups – acid, base, or neutral. One easy means to assess pH is using red cabbage juice, which turns pink in the presence of acid and green in the presence of base. After being instructed in the fundamentals of the scientific method, including hypothesis formation and the importance of controls, the students had the opportunity to test the pH of many ordinary household substances. They discovered that cleaning products, such as laundry detergent, dish detergent, and Windex, were bases. In contrast, liquids which can be ingested were either neutral (milk) or slightly acidic (soda). The students greatly enjoyed performing the experiments, asked many questions, and wanted to test even more substances! To encourage this interest and enthusiasm, the AWIS members handed out detailed information so that the students could set up their own experiments at home.

Many thanks to Anna-Maria Hays for organizing the AWIS team.

AWIS Members on the Move.....

Melissa Cunningham moved to Immusol, Inc. on March 1. Melissa is actually returning to Immusol after 3 ½ years at Gen-Probe, Inc. She left Gen-Probe to return to a more research-enriched environment. At Immusol, she is a member of the Technology Development team, which looks for improvements and expanded applications of Immusol's technologies. Immusol is a gene discovery company which utilizes its trademark Inverse Genomics to search for genes involved in human disease. Website: www.immusol.com.

Debra A. Hope, PhD has joined Cellomics as their Director of Bioinformatics Knowledge Engineering in Pittsburgh, PA.

Susan Jennings, PhD has joined Software Automation Solutions, Inc., a custom software development company specializing in scientific applications (www.sa-solutions.com), as Director of Business Development.

AWIS San Diego Women in Bioscience Conference will be held May 5 at the Salk Institute "Taking the Lead"

By WIB Publicity Committee

Take the lead and join fellow AWIS members for the Women in Bioscience Conference at the Salk Institute, on May 5, 2001. With workshops such as "Negotiation Skills," "Leadership in Academia vs. Industry" and "BioInformatics" and a maximum capacity of 350 registrants, this conference fosters an environment of interactive participation.

Historically, the WIB conference has focussed on networking and educational opportunities for women scientists. The upcoming WIB conference is the fifth in a series that has been specifically designed for attendees to explore issues such as "How to be a Boss," "Your Stay or Leave Equation," and "Saving & Managing Money." For more information, and to register for the conference, connect to the San Diego AWIS chapter website, <http://awis.npaci.edu/WIB> or call the AWIS hotline at 619-687-5580.

Four Students Chosen to receive AWIS Awards at the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair

By Barbara Armstrong

AWIS members Barbara Armstrong, Victoria Chazin, Cathy Manner, Dawne Page, Tobey Tam, and Dana Weinberger, selected two junior high and two senior high school students to receive the San Diego Chapter AWIS Science Fair Award presented at the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair. The fair is held annually in Balboa Park with students participating from all over the county.

The junior high school winners are:

Elizabeth Michiko DePonte for her project: "Effective Instructions: Oral Demonstrations vs. Written Directions."
Anna Andersen for her project: "Bacterial Contamination of the Ocean."

The senior high school winners are:

Kylise Hare for her project: "Panda Play."
Marguerite Mathews for her project: "Comparing the Effects of Exercise and Enrichment on Learning."

An awards ceremony will be held on May 10 at the Scripps Research Institute. Details to follow. AWIS members are encouraged to attend.

AWIS Events Committee Schedule of Events for June 2001

By Marcelle Vogel

June 20 – The Changing Role of Clinical Research
(panel and location TBA)

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**April AWIS Event: Cyber Crime—
A National and Local Focus**

By Tobey Tam

The 'I love you' virus, cyber attacks on the Pentagon, and the internet twins custody battle are only the most recent, highly-publicized examples of criminal acts being committed in cyberspace. On April 11 at La Jolla Pharmaceuticals, FBI Special Agent Lori Jensen shared insights into how her agency investigates and prevents high-tech crime with an intrigued audience.

Cyber crime can happen to anyone. Jensen highlighted several examples, including ongoing computer hacking by organized criminal groups in Russia and the Ukraine, which has now resulted in more than 1 million credit card numbers being stolen. She also described how hackers can infiltrate an unsuspecting ISP (Internet Service Provider) and use the Internet to penetrate highly secured systems such as the Pentagon's DOD (Department of Defense) and universities such as MIT, as was the case in March 1998. Hackers do not fit a stereotypical profile; they range from young teenagers to serious professionals and can be found everywhere. There is even an annual Def Con hackers' convention held in Las Vegas.

Although the FBI does not have jurisdiction in prosecuting cyber criminals in other countries, they are working to alert everyone to the serious impact that cyberterrorism can cause.

Special Agent Jensen also shared her personal experiences within the FBI. She discussed how agents are trained for their positions, and how she and her co-workers stay up to date with advancing technologies.

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(free)

The AWIS e-mail list will keep you up-to-date with news of job opportunities, AWIS news and events (between newsletters.) To subscribe, please send e-mail to sdawis@san.rr.com. Include your full name, address, and phone number.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT



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Moving? Address Change?

Please notify us of your new address so you won't miss our mailings! E-mail **Susan Jennings** at: sdawis@san.rr.com, phone the AWIS voicemail: (619) 687-5580, or mail changes to AWIS - San Diego, PO Box 178096, 92177-8096.

About the AWIS Newsletter

The AWIS Newsletter is published bimonthly and provides AWIS members and supporters with information on chapter activities, career developments, and issues related to women in science. The newsletter is free to AWIS members. Subscription rate for non-members is \$20 a year.

May/June Newsletter staff:

Janice Payne	Tobey Tam	Susan Brown
Cathy Manner	Barbara Armstrong	Christine Haws

Send news items, comments, and subscription requests to Barbara Armstrong via e-mail: baawis@nethere.com; or AWIS, PO Box 178096, San Diego, CA 92177-8096. If you would like your article included in the next issue, the deadline for inclusion is June 8, 2001.

Posting Jobs in the AWIS newsletter: Contact Elaine Weidenhammer at eweiden@hotmail.com, or AWIS voicemail: 619-687-5580, or AWIS PO Box: 178096, San Diego, CA 92177-8096 for the details. Deadline for inclusion in the next AWIS newsletter is June 8, 2001. If submitting by snail mail, include the words ATTN: Elaine Weidenhammer on the bottom left corner of the envelope.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

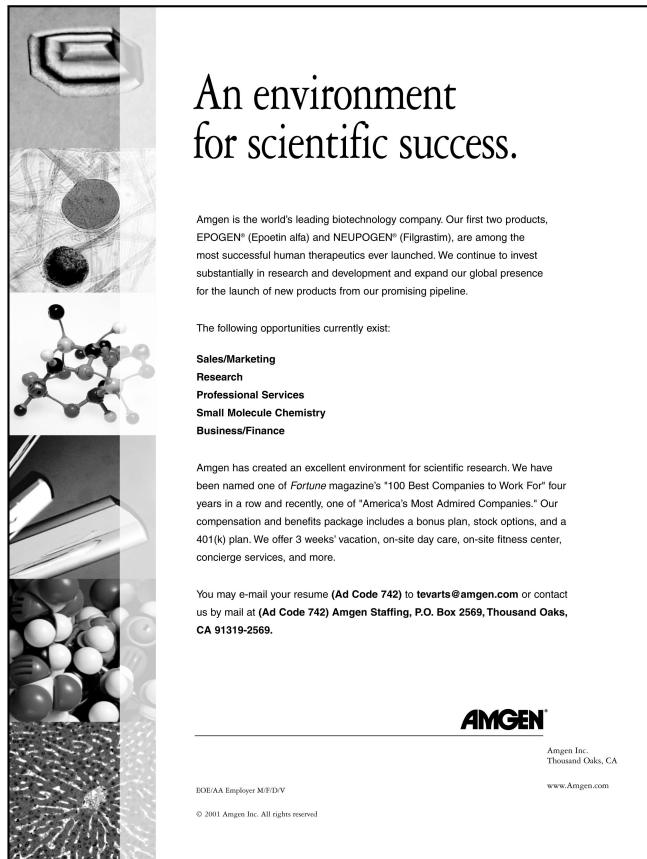
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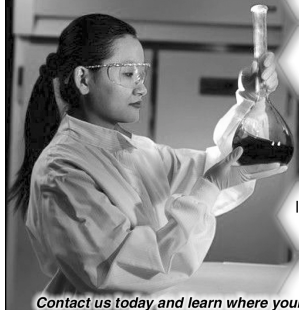
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