

WISENET Vic Newsletter - December

Hello everyone,

Upcoming Events

Lunch time meetings have been a great success this year in both the Clayton area (Monash/CSIRO) and Parkville/Carlton area. There will be more meetings next year so stay in touch. Special thanks to Jenny, Alena and Sherry who organize the Clayton area meetings, and to Jan and Jo for their help and support organising the first Parkville/Carlton meeting.

To the rescue!

Sherry Mayo and Jenny O'Connell, both from CSIRO, have offered to help out with Vic WISENET "stuff". They will each hold a copy of the mailing list so that urgent material may be forwarded onto members when I'm away from my computer. Thank you both.

If you would like to take a more active role in WISENET don't hesitate to contact me. There is always plenty to do...

"Populate and Publish" Follow-up article (WISENET J63 pg 5)

Maternity leave grant keeps research on track (Monash Memo Nov 5th)

Senior lecturer in the School of Chemistry Dr Andrea Robinson is the first staff member to take up the Faculty of Science's \$15,000 Populate and Publish grant introduced in February. The grant, designed to encourage female science academics to maintain the momentum of their research programs during maternity leave, is available upon their return.

Dr Robinson heads a team that has ARC funding to examine the synthesis of new catalysts for application to chemical reactions. One application is the development of pharmaceutical agents for the treatment and imaging of cancer.

She used the grant money to hire a senior research assistant during four months' combined maternity and annual leave, which meant that while she was at home looking after her newborn son, her research projects were able to continue without interruption. "I was in daily contact with the research assistant, and she was able to run my research group, draft papers for publication and keep up with the day-to-day administration of the projects." Dr Robinson, who returned from maternity leave in June, said the grant had made a huge difference. "It meant that my research group (five PhD students, one masters and one honours student) were properly supervised without any drop in momentum. It also meant we were able to draft six papers for publication. I couldn't have carried anything like that workload on my own. Being able to get support was a really good way to use the grant."

Science dean Professor Rob Norris said the grant was one of several initiatives through which the faculty aimed to retain good female academic staff. "This grant allows our female academics to feel confident about having a family and advancing their careers," he said.

Science Meets Parliament

Visit the web page for Julie Christie's report of her day at Parliament (Julie is the ACT Co-Convenor).

Senate Inquiry Into Higher Education

WISENET was invited to comment on questions Senator Natasha Stott Despoja asked FASTS:

- (a) Would the proposed changes have any impact on women studying science at University?
- (b) Do you feel there would be a deleterious impact on the role of women in science or even the number of women taking on science degrees as a consequence of some the changes we are looking at today.

Higher Education Legislation Amendment Bill 1996

The response is attached. (Senate Enquiry into Higher Education1.pdf)

Obituary – Suzanne Thwaites

A message from Cathy Foley via Rosemary Sutton

Dear Rosemary,

I was wondering if you could send out on email to Wiesnet. Suzanne Thwaites, a physicist from our lab died suddenly while over seas on 7 Oct. She came to some WISENET meetings.

Thanks
Cathy

ACT meeting report – New Scientist

Jeff Sapier, Marketing Manager of New Scientist, was a Guest Speaker at an ACT WISENET lunch on the 9th October. Jeff told us some interesting things about life at New Scientist, how the magazine is written and about a report they commissioned on readership and gender. We asked Jeff to provide a written outline of his talk – it makes for an interesting and enjoyable read. It can be found on the WISENET web page.

Proposed changes to ARC

Below is a media release from FASTS, issued on Saturday November 22.
Toss Gascoigne

Cautious response to proposed ARC changes

Australia's peak Council for scientists and technologists has responded cautiously to proposals to change the way research funding is handled in Australia.

Education Minister Brendan Nelson Minister flagged possible changes to the processes of the Australian Research Council (ARC). The proposal includes replacing the present expert advisory committees with a 'college of experts'. The Minister has also suggested that there should be 'broad community representation on the new body that will be assessing future grant proposals'. His proposals were contained in a media release issued on Friday. See: <http://www.dest.gov.au/Ministers/Media/Nelson/2003/11/n533211103.asp>

Professor Snow Barlow, President of FASTS, said scientists can see advantages in using a multi-disciplinary panel to choose projects for funding. "Many advances come from multi-disciplinary approaches, and may for instance involve chemistry and biology working together to solve a problem," he said. "But we would be concerned if people without the necessary technical knowledge were involved in a panel to choose which science projects should be funded." He said that Australia has a world-beating system of peer review, and underlined the importance of encouraging excellence across a broad base from

mathematics to humanities. "FASTS is warmly supportive of involving the broad community in Australia's science programs," he said. "The Australian public should be involved in selecting our national research priorities, and needs to be confident in the broad directions of scientific research. "But we are puzzled about the role non-experts might play in choosing between often highly technical science proposals." Professor Barlow said he would be writing to the Minister to seek clarification about the suggestion.

For interview: Professor Snow Barlow ph (03) 5833 9255; 0407 251 574

For information: Toss Gascoigne 0408 704 442

Resources for Recruiting and Retaining Women

A message from Donna Milgram, Executive Director, Institute for Women in Trades, Technology & Science (IWITTS).

IWITTS recently launched our WomenTech Project Best Practices CD based on our 3-year NSF Project. Finally, the tools you've been waiting for: a step- by- step guide chock full of winning strategies for recruiting and retaining women into your school's technology programs. Based on the successful National Science Foundation WomenTech Project, this attractive, colorful, multi-media CD has tips, real-life examples and sample materials to help you quickly enhance your own recruitment and retention activities. There's even ten minutes of video footage of a Women Tech Career Expo, and lots of photos throughout.

The three-year WomenTech Project has pulled together strategies that work from its three community college demonstration sites: Community College of Rhode Island, North Harris Community College District in Houston, College of Alameda. Use these time-tested tactics to boost your own school's recruitment and retention of women in technology. You'll easily navigate through the user- friendly CD, that works like a website, to develop a blueprint for your own school. The five sections - Recruitment, Retention, Employers, Institutionalization and Institutional Assessment – each contain how-to advice and sample materials you can easily tailor to fit your own school's needs.

For more info go to: <http://www.womentechstore.com/edpedcd35.html>

Also, I (Donna) would like to invite you to the 18th National WomenTech Educators Workshop. Learn "How To" Recruit & Retain Women and Girls in the Technology Classroom. The workshop is on February 12 & 13, 2004 in San Francisco, CA. It is a fast-paced interactive workshop for technology instructors, school-to-career coordinators, counselors, school administrators and equity coordinators.

For more information go to <http://www.womentechstore.com/edtr026.html>

Women in Computing Conference

The Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing 2004 is a technical conference featuring invited keynote and technical speakers, panels, workshops, new investigator technical papers, PhD forums, technical posters, and birds of a feather sessions (BOFs). The speakers are leaders in their respective fields, representing industrial, academic, and government communities. The theme of the Fifth Grace Hopper Celebration is Making History, celebrating the impact of women - past, present, and future - on computing.

For more information go to <http://www.gracehopper.org/cfp.html>

A petition to end the detention of children seeking asylum in Australia

<http://www.PetitionOnline.com/dtention/petition.html>

Pay Equity News from NZ (Thanks Tamsin)

Some of the papers from the Status of Women Committee's pay equity conference held in September are now available on the Association of University Staff website <http://www.aus.ac.nz> (Scroll down the 'News' until you find "Achieving Pay/Employment Equity for University Women (25.9.03)" and follow the link.)

NZ Royal Society News, 29/10/03 (from Jean)

Women still hitting glass ceiling in European research jobs

Brussels, Belgium, Oct 28 AP

While 40 percent of European women have doctoral degrees, only 15 percent have research positions - EU study

Researchers in Europe are overwhelmingly male, especially in the private sector, even though more and more women are receiving doctoral degrees, the European Commission reported Tuesday. Women hold only 15 percent of business research positions although they now get 40 percent of doctoral degrees in Europe, according to the She Figures 2003 study, part of an European Union (EU) campaign to close the gender gap in the hard sciences. "Women researchers are too valuable a resource to be wasted," said European Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin. "We cannot afford to lose out on this pool of intellectual potential." Despite a rise of 1 percent to 2 percent of women in research positions since the late 1990s, men hold 73 percent of those jobs in the public and private sectors.

Austrian women fare particularly badly: Less than 2 percent of researchers at Austrian engineering schools are female, the largest gender gap in European laboratories. The lowest level of female researchers in business, 9 percent, can also be found in Austria. The only place where the number of women exceeds men is Portugal's government sector, where women account for 55 percent of researchers. University and government labs generally employ twice as many women researchers as do private companies, where women compose less than one-quarter of scientific boards. "The lack of women in senior, decision-making positions in science means that their individual and collective opinions are less likely to be voiced," the report said. It described a glass ceiling in university science classrooms, where men outpace women by nearly three times in the most senior academic positions, which are 19 percent female. "Level of qualification can no longer be regarded as an excuse for the under-representation of women as researchers," the report said, adding that women might seek technical jobs over research and development posts.

Strategies of Inclusion: Gender and the Information Society (SIGIS)

The results of a major two-year European study on public and private initiatives to include and attract women to information and communication technology (ICT) use, employment and education are now available. This research project, funded by the European Commission IST (Information Society Technologies) Programme, has published a collection of case studies and analyses for policy makers, product designers and service developers.

The reports are available online at <http://www.sigis-ist.org>.

Achievements in Mathematics (from AWISE – UK)

Tanya Morton draws our attention to <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3243736.stm>

Elin Oxhielm, a 22-year-old student at Stockholm University, has solved part of one of Hilbert's famous problems, no. 16, concerned with the topology of algebraic curves and shapes. David Hilbert presented 23 important unsolved problems when he addressed the second International Congress of Mathematicians in

Paris in 1900. (This address, described as the most influential in the history of mathematics, is on the web: signposted on the news.bbc site.) A century on, nos. 6, 8 and 16 are still unsolved, challenges for the 21st century. Elin Oxhielm has now solved a version of the second part of problem 16, on boundary cycles for polynomial differential equations. She says she thought about it for a few months, then the solution came remarkably quickly. These questions, of theoretical importance, are not just academic: her research into planar polynomial vector fields may have practical applications for computer simulations in science, including social science.

Law Lady to join the Law Lords – UK

We welcome the appointment of Brenda Hale, a Court of Appeal Judge and outspoken feminist, to the country's highest court, the House of Lords, where she is the youngest of 12 judges, and the first woman to hold this office (in 600 years). Brenda Hale read law at Cambridge (starred first of 1966), headed the list in the Bar finals in 1967, was married in 1968 (one daughter) and again in 1992, rose to a personal chair in law at Manchester University (1986), became Queen's Counsel in 1989, moving to Kings College London as Professor of English Law. She has published books on mental health and family law.

In 1984 she was the youngest person and first woman to be appointed a Law Commissioner. She has instigated key reforms; the Children Act 1989 restructured relations between parents, children and the state, and the Family Law Act 1996 legislated on domestic violence. She was appointed High Court Judge in 1994, Lady Justice of Appeal (the second) in 1999, and is to be Chancellor of Bristol University. Lady Hale reports that she has on occasion refused to leave the table after dinner in judges' official lodgings (ladies are expected to retire leaving the men to their conversation over the port).

Scholarship Opportunities

1, PhD Scholarship in NZ - (Deadline 9th December)

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a PhD candidate to undertake a three year Technology for Industry Fellowship (TIF) position within the Glycoscience Research Centre of AUT and its industry partner, Kiwi Ingenuity Limited (KIWI). The purpose of the scholarship is to conduct research towards completing a PhD in the fertility field. The research topic is 'The development of an in-vitro embryo-endometrium implantation model'.

The successful applicant will have:

- * A degree suitable for admission to a PhD programme
- * Experience in animal/human embryology
- * Technical skills in cell culture, sterile techniques and microscopy
- * Ability to work independently and demonstrate initiative with regard to problem solving

You will be expected to sign and uphold commercial confidentiality and Intellectual Property agreements. The successful candidate will be paid a non-taxable stipend of \$25,000 per annum and will be awarded a Faculty Full Fee Scholarship.

Ref:1904 Closing Date: 9 December 2003

For the position Descriptions and Application Forms please visit www.aut.ac.nz/staff/current_vacancies or call (09) 917 9995.

Debbie Blake PhD, Project Leader, Glycoscience Research Centre
Auckland University of Technology, Private Bag 92006, Auckland 1020
Mob 027 241 4734, Wk 64-9-9179999 ext 8797, FAX 64-9-9179719, debbie.blake@aut.ac.nz

2. FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2004/2005 (deadline for applications: 15 January 2004)

The Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society (IAS-STS) offers five grants (EUR 1,000.- per month) for fellowships at the IAS-STS in Graz starting 1 October 2004, ending 30 June 2005. The IAS-STS promotes the interdisciplinary investigation of the links and interactions between science, technology and society as well as research on the development and implementation of socially and environmentally sound technologies. The IAS-STS provides the necessary research infrastructure, while a number of guest lecturers and workshops foster an atmosphere of creativity and scholarly discussion.

The grants of the fellowship programme 2004/2005 are dedicated to projects investigating the following issues:

1. Gender - Technology – Environment Women with their various interests, competencies and potentials play important parts in the process of shaping socially sound and environmentally friendly, sustainable technologies - be it as users and consumers, or as experts. Applications should focus on research in the field of women in traditionally male fields of engineering, on ways of creating cultures of success for women engineers (students, graduates), and on masculinity and the culture of engineering.
2. Ethical, Legal and Social Aspects of Genome Research and Biotechnology A main focus of the grant scheme lies on the analysis of ethical, legal and social aspects of genome research. Research projects are expected to provide a better understanding of life sciences in concrete socio-cultural contexts of their fabrication, application and regulation. Researchers investigating risk issues are especially encouraged to apply.
3. Technology Studies and Sustainability Grants will be awarded for research projects contributing to the issue of sustainable development from the perspective of social studies or the history of science and technology. Projects should aim at socio-economic aspects of environmental technologies or at strategies of environmental technology policy, such as user participation, strategic niche management or ecological product policy. We encourage both theoretical analysis and practically oriented case studies.

The grant application must be submitted together with an application for a fellowship to the IAS-STS. Prof. Arno Bamme, Director of the IAS-STS, decides on the awarding of fellowships and grants in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Board.

Please note that it is also possible to apply for a fellowship without a grant or to apply for a short-term fellowship without grant (not longer than one month: Visiting Fellows). We also encourage senior scientists to apply as guest lecturers. Closing date for applications is 15 January 2004.

For application forms and further information:

Please visit our website: www.sts.tu-graz.ac.at

Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society (IAS-STS)

Attn. Guenter Getzinger, Kopernikusgasse 9, A-8010 Graz - Austria

E-mail: info@sts.tu-graz.ac.at

3. St John's College, Cambridge, CB2 1TP

In May 2004 St John's will elect a number of graduate students (any discipline) to Benefactors' Scholarships tenable from October 2004. For further information, write to the Tutor for Graduate Affairs. The maximum annual value of the scholarships will be a maintenance grant of at least £9,000 (reviewed annually) plus:

- (a) approved University and College fees;
- (b) a contribution towards travel expenses and reasonable removal expenses from the Scholar's home;
- (c) an annual contribution towards the cost of a return journey home;
- (d) an annual Scholarship emolument of £150;
- (e) an annual book grant of up to £100.

Financial assistance may be given also towards essential academic expenses such as fieldwork or conference attendance. The annual value of scholarships beyond this number will be an emolument of £150 and a book grant of up to £100. Those eligible are:

- 1, members of the College engaged in PhD study, or in (1 year) MPhil study and applying to continue for a PhD
- 2, applicants to the College for admission as graduate students intending to register as candidates for the degree of PhD, or the degree of MPhil, or else to read for the Certificate of Advanced Study in Mathematics (Part III of the Mathematical Tripos) so as to register thereafter as PhD candidates.

Tenure will normally be for the minimum duration of the course (3,4 years), subject to satisfactory academic progress. PhD awards will continue to the end of the third year (after initial registration as a Graduate Student) or to the end of the fourth year if the Scholar has achieved the distinguished performance in an MPhil examination. M Phil or Part III Maths awards are renewable for 3 years subject to satisfactory academic progress (see regulations). Applicants should apply to the Board of Graduate Studies by **31/12/2003**. There is no separate application form for these Scholarships for students outside Cambridge. All eligible applicants who have been made a conditional offer by St John's by 1 May 2004 will be considered (in view of delays due e.g. to lengthy selection processes in departments). Suitably qualified members of St John's or other Cambridge Colleges should fill in an application form, obtainable (by 12 February 2004) from the Tutor for Graduate Affairs, St John's College. The closing date for receipt of forms by the College is 1 May 2004. Current undergraduates of St John's and those currently reading for the Certificate of Advanced Study in Mathematics or the LL.M. are not eligible under this scheme, but will automatically be considered under a different scheme in July 2004. Applicants will be required to apply for all other research awards for which they are eligible, e.g. overseas applicants for Overseas Research Student Awards. The value of any Scholarship awarded will be reduced appropriately to take account of payments from other sources. Election will be conditional upon admission by the University's Board of Graduate Studies.

4. FIVE COLLEGE WOMEN'S STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER

A collaborative project of Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst

The Center invites applications for its Research Associateships for 2004-2005 from scholars and teachers at all levels of the educational system, as well as from artists, community organizers and political activists, both local and international. Associates are provided with offices in our spacious facility, computer access, library privileges, and the collegiality of a diverse community of feminists. Research Associate applications are accepted for either a semester or the academic year. The Center supports projects in all disciplines so long as they focus centrally on women or gender. Research Associateships are non-stipendiary. However, international applicants with expertise in Latin America, Asia or Europe may apply for one of the two special one-semester Ford Associateships for Fall 2004 or Spring 2005, which offer a stipend of \$12,000, plus a \$3,000 housing/travel allowance in return for teaching (in English) one undergraduate course at Mount Holyoke College. The Weissman Center for Leadership and the Liberal Arts will co-sponsor the associates and invites applicants to consider contributing to our year-long focus on The World and Water: (Re)Source of Power in the 21st Century with a special emphasis on design (architectural, furniture, graphic, or product design as well as urban and landscape design), documentary studies in film and photography or performance in an international context. Preference given to applicants with performance or production experience and whose work crosses traditional academic boundaries. Applications welcomed from visual artists, film and video makers, architects and designers, dancers and actors, as well as academic scholars. Ford applicants need not be studying their own region of origin. Applicants for both programs should submit a project proposal (up to 4 pages), curriculum vitae, two letters of reference, and application cover sheet. In addition, Ford applicants should submit a two-page description of a women's studies course they are prepared to teach, which includes their pedagogical goals and techniques. Submit all applications to: Five College Women's Studies Research Center, Mount Holyoke College, 50 College Street, South Hadley, MA 01075-6406. **Deadline is February 16, 2004.** For further information, contact the Center at TEL 413.538.2275, FAX 413.538.3121, email fcwsrsc@wscenter.hampshire.edu, website: <http://wscenter.hampshire.edu/>

Reminders from the last newsletter:

Making a Difference: (Sept)

An opportunity from Anna to raise the profile of women in science:

Hello everyone,

I am starting to be inundated with requests from different organisations to nominate women for many prizes, awards, honours etc. My experience is that most women are very shy at nominating themselves or others. It seems appropriate for WISENET to take this role.

While appearing simple, the nominations usually have criteria and require considerable researching and collaboration. I would therefore appreciate each member forwarding me a two page 'self-portrait' as soon as possible so that I can see where best to nominate - and start early! The 2-pager should include your

- name,
- contact details,
- professional history,
- community involvements,
- special services to Australia. etc and if possible,
- the names of one or two people who could act as primary referees. They can be friends or colleagues... just someone that you are happy for us to contact.

If sent by email, could it be in WORD format please - NO photographs at this stage. I just need an overview for the moment and will then get back to you for more information as required.

Nominees need to be financial members of WISENET. Please also let me (or your Link Group Convenor) know if you do not wish to be involved in this or have objections to nomination for any specific type of award.

In emails, I would appreciate the subject title to be as it is in this email. I will have a special mailbox set up to receive the emails automatically. (subject line: **WISENET: Honouring Womens Program**)

I am very much looking forward to being busier in this enjoyable way!!

cheers,

Dr Anna Robinson, National Convenor,

Anna Robinson <anna.robinson@bigpond.com>

Newsletter distribution and submissions

If you would like to circulate anything to WISNET-Vic please send it to me and I will include it in the next newsletter. Please send this newsletter onto friends. If you would like to be added to the mailing list let me know. If you no longer wish to receive these e-mails drop me a line and I'll remove you from the distribution list.

Don't forget to visit the website regularly – particularly the link group pages. The site is constantly being updated. www.wisenet-australia.org

Merry Christmas, and thank you for your help in 2003.

Diane Webster

diane@burnet.edu.au

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