

# AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

*Chicago*

The Association for Women in Science (AWIS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to achieving equity and full participation of women in all areas of science, technology, and engineering.

The Chicago Area Chapter of the Association for Women in Science was founded in 1978 as a local chapter of the national organization.

For membership information, please visit us at:

[www.AWIS-Chicago.org](http://www.AWIS-Chicago.org)

or contact us at:

[info@AWIS-Chicago.org](mailto:info@AWIS-Chicago.org)

## AWIS Chicago Chapter Board Members

**President:**

Joy Ramos, Ph.D.

**Past President:**

Sandy Pearce, Ph.D.

**VP for Finance:**

Ushma Kriplani, Ph.D.

**VP for Programs/Sponsorship:**

Paroo Uppal, MSc, MBA

**VP for Membership:**

Keng Jin Lee, Ph.D.

**VPs for Communications:**

Michelle Merrigan  
and Carrie Heusner

**VPs for Outreach:**

Larissa Belova, Ph.D.  
and Ramille Shah, Ph.D.

**Newsletter Editor:**

Dimitra Georganopoulou, Ph.D.

## Mission

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## New AWIS Chicago Board

*July*– Following the summer elections, AWIS Chicago welcomes the formation of the new board led by new President Joy Ramos, Ph.D. (pictured right). Joy is Sr. Account Executive/ Medical Writer at Prescott Medical Communications Group, and has been involved with AWIS since her graduate student days at Northwestern University.



*New President: Joy Ramos*

Joy was previously VP for Membership at AWIS Chicago and is also a Career Talk columnist and Chapter News editor for AWIS National Magazine. We are excited to see the direction of AWIS Chicago under her leadership. Congratulations are also due to the rest of the elected board members that will support Joy in her new role and to the outgoing board for their hard work for the last two years, under Sandy Pearce's leadership.

## Recent Announcements

***July 2010 Scientist of the Month: Debby Quock, M.S.*** Debby Quock, M.S. is a Computer Scientist at Argonne National Laboratory (ANL). Her work focuses on applications that support real-time accelerator controls, specifically geared particle accelerator controls and software. In addition, at ANL, Debby spear-headed "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED)", a student outreach event for girls in middle school. Before Argonne, Debby was a Senior Chemical Engineer for Texaco, Inc. and a consultant for Technology Evaluations, Inc. Naturally inclined towards scientific reasoning, mathematical interpretation, and analytical problem-solving from a young age, she pursued her B.S. in chemical engineering at the University of Missouri-Columbia, followed by her first M.S. degrees in chemical engineering at Rice University, and a second M.S. degree in computer science at the University of Chicago. Click [here](#) for more details.

***June 2010 Scientist of the Month: Karen Visick, Ph.D.*** Karen earned her Ph.D. at the University of Washington studying gene regulation, in particular flagellar assembly in *Salmonella*. Karen's laboratory, in the Microbiology and Immunology Department at the Stritch School of Medicine, studies the fascinating symbiotic relationship between the marine bacterium *Vibrio fischeri* and the Hawaiian Bobtail Squid, *Euprymna scolopes*. *V. fischeri* cells are bioluminescent, and when grown to high density inside a particular organ in the squid, they emit light. Karen has been a professor at Loyola for 12 years and is taking her first sabbatical this coming fall. During her sabbatical, she will be studying pathogenic members of the *Vibrio* genus with Dr. Jorge Crosa at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, Oregon. She hopes to learn more about biochemical approaches to studying pathogenesis and share the genetic manipulation tools she has developed with her colleagues. Click [here](#) for more details.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual AWIS Innovator Award Recipient: Alicia Löffler, PhD

**May**– This year, AWIS Chicago honored Alicia Löffler with our 4<sup>th</sup> annual AWIS Innovator Award at Blue Star Wine Bar. Dr. Löffler is the Associate Vice President for Innovation and New Ventures at Northwestern University, in the newly created Innovations and New Ventures Office (INVO). She is a faculty member at the Kellogg School of Management, has been involved in multiple biotech start-ups, and has served on the advisory board of several venture capital firms. In addition, she was recently the director of the Kellogg Center for Biotechnology Management. Dr. Löffler has received several other area awards, including being named one of the Tech 100 Stars by *Crain's Chicago Business* and the "Women in Black" I-Street award from the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Dr. Löffler received her BS from the University of Minnesota, her PhD from the University of Massachusetts and completed a post-doc at Caltech.



*Award recipient: Prof. Alicia Löffler*

## Women in Science Symposium 2010: Building an Identity



*C2ST and AWIS stirring committee for the WIS symposium*

**April**– The Association for Women in Science (AWIS) Chicago Chapter in partnership with the Chicago Council on Science and Technology (C2ST), developed its first ever all-day *Women in Science Symposium 2010: Building an Identity*. The symposium's mission was to allow women scientists, at the academic, industry and government levels, to better recognize the number and diversity of their counterparts; create a sense of solidarity, and broaden the spectrum of opportunities for women in Chicagoland.

For more information and news coverage of this event, click [Medill News coverage](#).

## Chicago Public Schools Science Fair Special Award

*March* – AWIS Chicago has been a proud supporter of the Chicago Public Schools science fair for many years and on this, its 60th year, chose girls who showed the most promise to receive an AWIS Special Award. In 2010, AWIS Chicago presented awards to young women with outstanding science projects in their specialty. Recipients included Jessika Gaughan (7th grader from Cassell, Chemistry, Roses R Red, Violets R Blue, Y is this True?) and Gargi Vaghmare (12th grader from Mather, Physics, Measuring the Speed of Light Using Chocolates).



*Science Fair Special Award recipients*

## Negotiation Skills Workshop Part IV: Academic Contract Negotiation

*February* – AWIS Chicago hosted a panel discussion targeted at women interested in pursuing careers in academic science. Panelists Clodia Osipo, PhD (Loyola University Chicago), Michelle Swanson-Mungerson, PhD (Midwestern University) and Sally Horne-Badovinac, PhD (University of Chicago) gave their perspectives on what academic contracts are, how institutions handle the negotiation process and provided tips on how to get a faculty position. This was the final installment of the AWIS Chicago ‘Effective Negotiation’ Career Development series.

## Lift A Fork Networking Event

*January* – Our 2010 kickoff event consisted of socializing, cocktails and appetizers in Evanston. AWIS Chicago participated in Pete Miller’s Steak & Seafood restaurant’s *Lift a Fork* program, which contributed 20% of the evening’s proceeds to AWIS Chicago. The funds will be used towards helping AWIS Chicago expand programming and outreach in 2010.



*Lift a Fork networking event*

## *In the News*

**Mayor Daley declares April 17, 2010 to be “Women in Science Day” in Chicago in conjunction with the WIS symposium**

Mayor Daley’s endorsement is a symbol of support and encouragement to female scientist in the Chicago Area. We are honored by the recognition of our achievements and contributions to all fields of science.

## 'People Management Workshop' Presented by Dale Carnegie Training

**December** – Sandra Larkin, a respected Dale Carnegie workshop leader, advised graduate students, post-docs and industry researchers about effectively managing others in a life sciences environment. This 90-minute workshop was formulated specifically for our members by Dale Carnegie Training. Men and women participated in the interactive presentation.



*People Management Workshop*

Topics covered included: people management (in industry and academia), how to get noticed for promotions and how to advance into management positions. The group gave individualized examples of management style in their workplace and Sandra provided constructive criticism about how to better approach conflict situations in the laboratory and other work environments.

## Negotiation Skills Workshop Part III: Negotiation in the Workplace

**November** – AWIS Chicago presented “Negotiation in the Workplace” as part of its “Effective Negotiation” Career Development Series. Dr. Alice Stuhlmacher, associate professor in Organizational Psychology at DePaul University, presented an interactive and informative presentation highlighting the gender differences seen with negotiation in work situations.

## Fall Social Networking Event

**September** – AWIS Chicago and local area women scientists met at the Windy City Wine Festival for our Fall 2009 Kickoff event. We sampled from a selection of over 250 wines, played WINES bingo, and Christine McCary, a graduate student at Northwestern University, was the lucky winner of a \$25 Binny's gift card.



*Fall Social Networking Event*

# Why Join?

## Mission Statement

The specific objectives and goals of the association are to:

- Provide opportunity to meet and network with colleagues in the area
- Develop professional skills in development workshops and panel discussions
- Have fun with other like-minded women scientists in various social events
- Promote equal employment opportunities for women in science
- Recognize the achievements of women in science
- Cooperate with national, state, and local organizations that share common objectives with AWIS Chicago

Sign up for our free listserv at:

[http://www.awis-chicago.org/mailman/listinfo/listserv\\_awis-chicago.org](http://www.awis-chicago.org/mailman/listinfo/listserv_awis-chicago.org)

Contact Keng Jin Lee at [membership@AWIS-Chicago.org](mailto:membership@AWIS-Chicago.org) or click [here](#) to join.

## Did you know?

AWIS was founded in 1971 at the annual meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, after a series of champagne brunches organized by the informal women's caucus. AWIS focused on advocacy for women in science across all scientific and technical disciplines and at all educational levels. AWIS was founded to sue the NIH and demand that they place women on their review panels. They sued, and they won. It is now 2010, 39 years later and we'll be celebrating 40 years in 2011!

## Suggest an event

The last board was very active during the last two years of service, with seminars, panel discussions, presentations and award ceremonies

(<http://www.awis-chicago.org/events/past-events>). If you have an idea for an event please send your suggestions to the new VPs for outreach Larissa Belova and Ramille Shah at [outreach@AWIS-Chicago.org](mailto:outreach@AWIS-Chicago.org).

## Nominate a Scientist of the Month

The AWIS Chicago "Scientist of the Month" is an area scientist who promotes the advancement of women in the fields of science, technology and engineering (STEM). Nominate a scientist (man or woman) from any STEM field in the Chicago area who has made an impact on your education, career, or the scientific community as a whole. Send nominations to Michelle Merrigan and Carrie Heusner at [communications@AWIS-Chicago.org](mailto:communications@AWIS-Chicago.org).

Get Involved

## Gold Sponsor (\$5000 or Greater)

- 10 sponsored AWIS memberships
- Logo on the front page of our website (with link to company website) for one calendar year
- Logo on all advertisements for events for one calendar year
- ½ page advertisement in both installments of our newsletter
- Presence at our annual career panel
- Listing on the sponsorship page of our website
- AWIS involvement in company science outreach initiatives

## Silver Sponsor (\$3000)

- 6 sponsored AWIS memberships
- Logo on advertisements for 3 events in one calendar year
- ¼ page advertisement in both installments of our newsletter
- Listing on the sponsorship page of our website
- AWIS involvement in company science outreach initiatives

## Bronze Sponsor (\$1000)

- 2 sponsored AWIS memberships
- Logo on advertisements for 1 event in one calendar year
- 1/8 page advertisement in both installments of our newsletter
- Listing on the sponsorship page of our website
- AWIS involvement in company science outreach initiatives

## Friend of AWIS (< \$1000)

- Listing on the sponsorship page of our website
- Name mentioned in our newsletter

## Contact info for Sponsors

- **President :**  
Joy Ramos ([joy.ramos@awis-chicago.org](mailto:joy.ramos@awis-chicago.org))
- **VP for Programs / Sponsorship:**  
Paroo Uppal ([programs@AWIS-Chicago.org](mailto:programs@AWIS-Chicago.org))

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