

# Members-at-Large NEWSLETTER

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National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry

September 2007

Editor Joanne Bedlek-Anslow

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## Donate to the MAL Award Fund!

Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution to the very worthy MAL Award Fund. If you have not made a contribute and would still like to make one, please make your check payable to Iota Sigma Pi and please put MAL Scholarship Fund on the memo line. The check can be mailed to Donna A. Iannotti. This is a great way to support promising students, really neat ladies, and Iota Sigma Pi! Any amount is welcome and tax deductible.

## 2008 MAL Reentry Award is coming!

The details for the 2008 MAL REA will be in our next newsletter. Please start to think about any eligible candidates and keep them in mind for when the award nominating materials arrive. Thanks!

## MAL Listserv

Any user can subscribe or unsubscribe by sending a blank message to:

**ispmal-subscribe@whitman.edu** or  
**ispmal-unsubscribe@whitman.edu**

Make sure you send from the email address to which you wish to receive mail. You will receive a confirmation request to make sure you control the subscription address. Once this address is verified, the user is either subscribed or unsubscribed, depending upon the message sent to the list.

To send messages to the list, address them to **ispmal@whitman.edu**. It is a private list, meaning that only those of us subscribed can read the messages. If there are questions about the listserv, please contact Ruth Russo at **russorn@whitman.edu**.

## Websites

For the national IΣΠ

<http://www.iotasigmapi.info/>

For MALs

<http://web.centre.edu/muzyka/ispmal>

## Member Get-a-Member Campaign

As MALs, we have a policy in place for nominating new members. If you get two new members to join within a year, you are eligible for free IΣΠ merchandise from the supplies coordinator. National council lets you use the honor system, so when you've found two people tell the supplies coordinator, and she will send you something. The supplies coordinator is

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Look around you. Are there colleagues, subordinates, friends or students who qualify? Qualifications for membership can be found on our website mentioned above. Remember, students don't need to be majoring in chemistry but must have taken the minimum of chemistry courses (see the undergraduate qualifications). Professionals also just need to meet the minimum number of Chemistry credits; they don't need to be working as Chemists. Institutions and chemists in the area must be included.

## In the News...

If you do not subscribe to MentorNet News, there were some wonderful articles this summer. I have listed them from July and August. I urge you to log-on and check-them-out.

**MentorNet News July 2007**

## Stereotypes Negatively Affect Women's Academic Performance

A recent study shows that women exposed to academic stereotyping demonstrate poorer scholastic performance than women who are not exposed to such stereotypes. This exposure to stereotypes belittling women's academic skills caused female students who participated in the

study to become distracted and worried, which interfered with their ability to use problem solving skills most effectively.

### **Chemical Employment Nears Recent Record Low, but Engineering Employment Continues to Climb**

After improving slightly in 2006, employment in chemical manufacturing resumed its nearly decade long decline in 2007. Preliminary figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Current Employment Statistics survey indicate that 867,600 individuals were employed in chemical manufacturing in May 2007, down from 869,700 the previous month.

### **New Book Examines the Career Pathways of Women**

The glass ceiling remains largely unbroken for women because the very structure of the career track does not give women a chance, says author Sylvia Ann Hewlett in a new book, *Off-Ramps and On-Ramps: Keeping Talented Women on the Road to Success*.

### **Calling Would-Be Science Teachers**

A group of academic and business leaders added their collective voice to the many recent calls for a significant upturn in the number of science and math teachers the United States needs to inject into elementary and secondary classrooms by 2015. The report, *An American Imperative: Transforming the Recruitment, Retention and Renewal of Our Nation's Mathematics and Science Workforce*, proposes an emphasis on recruitment, retention, and teacher preparation to improve math and science education and research.

### **How to Restart your Career after a Long Absence**

Making the transition back to the workplace after a significant absence – a year, two years, or more – can be both challenging and rewarding. It's a step more people are facing as the traditional approach – continuous, linear employment – gives way to a new approach marked by flexibility.

### **Black Women in the Ivory Tower**

In his landmark demographic studies of black America, W.E.B. Du Bois found that by 1880, 54 black women had earned college degrees. A new

book, *Black Women in the Ivory Tower: 1850-1954* (University Press of Florida), tells the stories of these women and those who followed them in the period up to the end of legal segregation in the United States. The author of the book is Stephanie Y. Evans, assistant professor of African-American studies and women's studies at the University of Florida.

### **The Crazy Attitudes that push Women out of Science**

This article, based on research that Susan Greenfield undertook in 2002, explores the issue of work/life balance for women scientists and the missed opportunity caused by the sheer difficulty of re-entering the workforce after a hiatus.

MentorNet News August 2007

### **Handling the 'Bad Apples'**

Amid discussions of unconscious biases against women in academe and ways to mentor young female faculty, a theme emerged that had less to do with gender and more to do with faculty life in general. Current and past academic chairs swapped horror stories and asked how to best handle academic bullies – generally older, tenured professors who are unwilling to take direction and can create what many described as a "toxic environment" in the department.

Two new reports from the **National Science Foundation** (U.S.) describe a plateau in scientific publication by U.S. scientists. For the reports, see "**Changing U.S. Output of Scientific Articles: 1988–2003**" and "**The Changing Research and Publication Environment in American Research Universities**".

For a special feature about undergraduate education around the world, see the **July 6, 2007 issue** of the journal *Science*.

### **Experts Urge Universities to Study, Communicate Ways to Increase Minorities in S&T**

While many colleges and universities have effective programs encouraging underrepresented minorities to pursue careers in science and engineering, participants in a National Academies workshop

hosted at AAAS said there is insufficient formal research on the programs' short- and long-term success rates. Workshops like the May 3-4 National Academies National Research Council (NRC), which Carol Muller helped organize, is hoping to encourage much needed research in this area.

**American Association of University Women**  
August 2007

### **Legislation you should know about... Paid Family Leave**

Every day, families across the country are forced to choose between taking care of a seriously ill child or working for the paycheck that covers that child's medication. A study released by Harvard and McGill University researchers in February 2007 found that the United States lags far behind nearly all wealthy countries in family-oriented workplace policies. In fact, the U.S. is one of only five countries out of 173 in the survey - along with Lesotho, Liberia, Swaziland, and Papua New Guinea - that does not guarantee some form of paid maternity leave.

AAUW has long supported flexible workplace policies to address the family responsibilities of employees. AAUW advocated for nearly a decade to pass the Family and Medical Leave Act, which was finally signed into law in 1993. While the FMLA has been an enormous gain for millions of workers, millions of Americans still do not have the option of taking time off to care for family members or themselves - either because they do not qualify for FMLA leave, or even more likely, they cannot afford to take unpaid leave.

On June 21, Sens. Christopher Dodd (D-CT) and Ted Stevens (R-AK) introduced legislation to provide up to eight weeks of paid leave to workers needing time off due to the birth or adoption of a child, to care for a child, spouse or parent with a serious illness, or to care for their own serious illness. The **Family Leave Insurance Act (S.1681)** will benefit both employers and their employees by establishing a Family Leave Insurance Fund through which employees, employers, and the federal government will share the cost of providing tiered compensation during times of family need.

The Family Leave Insurance Act will allow working men and women the paid time off to balance their work responsibilities with their own and their families' medical needs. AAUW believes that creating work environments that help employees balance the responsibilities of work and family is good public policy - good for workers, good for families, and good for business. <http://capwiz.com/aauw/issues/alert/?alertid=10156576&PROCESS=Take+Action>

*\*Iota Sigma Pi does not endorse this legislation one way or another. The editor feels it is legislation that will have an impact, good or bad, on a majority of our members and wishes to share this information with you. I encourage you to read-up on the bill.*

NSTA Grades K-12 **The 2008 ExploraVision** brochure and entry materials available now. If interested, please check the following website to download a pdf copy of the brochure and entry materials. <http://www.exploravision.org/enter-now/>

### **My Career Path**

The Career Path spotlight is on another one of our members, JP "Perky" Kilbourn. In her own words...After graduation from High School, I attended Willamette University for three years, with the idea of going to the University of Oregon Medical School my senior year. U of O Medical School is now called Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU). After completing my B.S. in General Science from the University of Oregon - U of O had accepted the year of Medical Technology Training at the U of O Medical School but Willamette U. would not - now U of O does accept the year of Medical Technology Training as academic work - so I graduated from U of O rather than Willamette U in 1958. I stayed at U of O Medical School to receive my Master of Science (1960) after doing research in the Department of Bacteriology. My thesis title was "Incomplete Antibody Formation in Webster Mice." I then received a Ph.D. (1963) from Oregon State University with a major in Microbiology and minors in Biochemistry and Mathematics. My thesis title was ""Use of a Radiation Resistant Organisms as a Protectant from Lethal Effects of Irradiation in Mice." I sure killed a lot of mice

during the course of 4 calendar years of education, and I will always be indebted to the mice for usually cooperating and never successfully biting me.

Since receiving my Ph.D., I have taught college classes on Microbiology at U of O, continuing education classes (Clinical Microbiology and Clinical Chemistry), tutored students for their GED exam, written and published or presented (as posters) 96 scientific articles (28 Cystic Fibrosis published articles, data containing Letters to the Editor & Posters on Cystic Fibrosis topics, 8 published articles and posters on Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease, 14 Yeast Infections articles/presentations, 3 Rheumatoid Test, 4 Multimedia Inoculation Systems, 3 Beta Hemolytic Streptococcus Kits, 12 Miscellaneous Articles on Clinical Microbiology, 5 Continuing Education Articles for Medical Technologists, 6 Bioremediation articles and presentations, and 13 Articles and presentations on Urinary Tract Infections), co-authored or edited four books, coordinated Members-at-Large for the National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry (ISP) for three years and was president and newsletter editor for the Promethium Chapter, in Portland, Oregon, and just completed a second of two three-year-terms of being Members-at-Large Coordinator for SDE Graduate Women in Science. From January 1984 to November 2002, I was the Laboratory Director/President of Board of Directors of Consulting Clinical and Microbiological Laboratory, Inc. after working as a Clinical Microbiologist in other laboratories since 1971. I was also the Laboratory Director of Public Services Laboratories, Inc. (Drug Testing Laboratories) from November 1996 to November 2005. I now have business cards, which say I am a "Consultant Microbiologist".

Currently I prepare a monthly science column for *The Predicator* (Newsletter of Portland Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute) and edit *The Sentinel* (Monthly newsletter for St. Stephen's Episcopal Parish).

In 1994, I became a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1995, I was named a Distinguished Alumni from Willamette University. In 1998, I received one of

three Women of Achievement Awards from the Oregon Commission for Women. In 1999, I was honored by the Northwest Science Exposition for mentoring and continuously supporting the Northwest Science Exposition. In 2004, I received the Certificate of Excellence from the PAVTEC Gender Equity Team. In 2007, I received the Presidential Certificate of Merit from SDE Graduate Women in Science which reads "Certificate of Public Service, Exceptional Leadership and Outreach Activities Associated with the Omega Chapter - (Chapter for Members-at-Large), I am still a judge for the Microbiology Category of Science Fair projects at the Northwest Science Exposition, and I do presentations for Math, Science & Technology Conference for Middle School Girls which is sponsored by the PAVTEC Gender Equity Team.

On the personal side, I have been married to the same man since June 11, 1961, the day after I took a Physical Chemistry Exam. We have two daughters and one granddaughter.

We congratulate Dr. Kilbourn on her many career and personal achievements and thank her for her contribution to our newsletter.

Where have you taken your career? How did you get to where you are now? I am looking for stories from our MAL's about the paths that took them to where they are now. Whatever your story, I would like you to share your history with the other MAL's. Please send your contributions to my email address, [drjba2000@yahoo.com](mailto:drjba2000@yahoo.com), subject My Career Path, and I will include the responses in our next newsletter. Thank you ☺

### **Chapter News**

No new updates from the other chapters.

### **General News**

**2007-2008 Dues are due!** If you have not sent in your dues, please do so as soon as possible. The membership directory will be coming out shortly, and we want to make sure that we have everyone's information correct and up-to-date. Thanks! Please contact the I&I Treasurer, Margaret Workman, if you have not received a dues notice or have any questions concerning payment.

The Radium Chapter will be hosting the **29<sup>th</sup> Triennial Convention** in Cincinnati, OH, on June 26-29, 2008. Please stay tuned to the newsletter and website for further updates.

All members are cordially invited to become **nominees** for the **2008-2011 National Council**. We are seeking nominees for all National Council positions except for the Immediate Past President. Nominees for the National President must have served on National Council for a previous term. The responsibilities of the different positions are described in the Constitution and Bylaws as well as in the Rules and Regulations ([www.iotasigmapi.info](http://www.iotasigmapi.info)).

Please consider being a nominee for a National Council position. You will derive tremendous satisfaction from serving your fellow members and helping to steer ISP in its second century. Please contact Lily Ng at 216-687-2467 or by email at [L.ng@csuohio.edu](mailto:L.ng@csuohio.edu).

### **GAANN Doctoral Fellowships**

Cleveland State University's (CSU) Department of Chemistry is now accepting applications for four GAANN doctoral fellowships for full-time study in Clinical-Bioanalytical Chemistry. Applications will be considered for fall 2007 and subsequent terms.

### **CSU and Program Information**

The GAANN Scholars will be members of the PhD program in Clinical-Bioanalytical Chemistry, a program which is on the forefront in the education of doctoral students at the chemical and biological science interface. The program is offered in conjunction with The Cleveland Clinic, and affords Students access to unique facilities and resources, and a ready network to world-class basic and applied research. CSU and the Department of Chemistry combine the convenience and amenities of a metropolitan location with the attentiveness of a caring faculty. Additional program information can be found online at:  
<http://www.csuohio.edu/chemistry/>.

### **GAANN Fellowship Information**

The fellowships are funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) Program. These fellowships provide tuition for full-time study and

yearly stipends of up to \$30,000 based on need. Fellows have access to additional funds for supplies, conference travel and other eligible expenses. It is anticipated that at least four fellowships will be awarded. Fellowships are renewable for a total of three years, after which fellows may continue on regular assistantship support.

### **Application Information**

Eligibility is restricted to U.S. citizens and permanent residents holding a B.S. or M.S. with superior GPAs and GRE scores (a GPA over 3.5 and GRE scores above the 75th percentile are preferred). Students from groups traditionally underrepresented in science, such as women and minorities, are particularly encouraged to apply. Candidates should apply to the Ph.D. in Clinical-Bioanalytical Chemistry through the Office of Graduate Admissions by submitting the on-line form

(<http://www.csuohio.edu/gradcollege/admit/apply.html>), transcripts, GRE general test scores, at least two letters of reference, a statement of citizenship or residence status, and a 1-2 page essay statement of career goals and research interests along with a cover letter asking to be considered for the GAANN program. Candidates should also submit a FAFSA form to the Office of Financial Aid.

For more information, contact:

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Jodye Selco is organizing a session at ACS in New Orleans entitled "Outreach and Inreach". She needs people to submit abstracts. Please consider submitting an abstract or passing this message on to folks who would be interested.

Professor Selco's address follows if you have questions:

Jodye Selco, Professor  
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### **MentorNet Seeking Mentors**

Learn more about becoming a mentor at [www.MentorNet.net](http://www.MentorNet.net)  
Need a mentor, wish to be a mentor, please check out this worthy project.

Iota Sigma Pi  
National Honor Society for  
Women in Chemistry

### **Member News**

This announcement was inadvertently dropped from the last MAL newsletter. Many of you already know of the news of Agnes Riley's death on October 3, 2006. She was 104, an emeritus member of the MAL Chapter, and she shared her birth year with Iota Sigma Pi. Many of us have had the opportunity to meet Mrs. Riley and can say with certainty that she was an amazing woman. She will be missed.

### **Daily Joke**

In honor of the start of school...

### **HOMEWORK**

I love to do my homework,  
It makes me feel so good.  
I love to do exactly  
As my teacher says I should.

I love to do my homework,  
I never miss a day.  
I love the little men in white  
Who're taking me away.

### **Newsletter Delivery!!!!**

Do you wish to receive the newsletter electronically rather than by the traditional paper route? If so, please send me an email at [drjba2000@yahoo.com](mailto:drjba2000@yahoo.com) with **ISP electronic newsletter** in the heading. I will put together a list of people and send you the newsletter electronically (pdf format) the next printing. If you like to get the paper version, please do not worry. I will continue to print it out and send it in the mail. Please respond only if you wish to receive the newsletter electronically.

