

July Meeting at J-Thai Restaurant called to order at 7:30 pm. The following individuals were present at the meeting: Heather Behanna (President); Joy Ramos (VP Service); Silvia Novelli (VP Public Relations); Katie Buchanan (VP Finance); Theresa Peterson (VP Programs); Beth Schubert (VP Membership); Annette Gilchrist (VP Communications); Jessica Ice

The first order of business was a rescheduling of the August meeting. Rather than be on Aug. 21, the meeting date was changed to Monday, August 14. The August meeting will be hosted by Theresa Peterson. Annette Gilchrist will host the meeting on Monday, September 18. Katie Buchanan will host the meeting on Monday, October 16. Silvia Novelli will host the meeting on Monday, November 13. Beth Schubert will host the meeting on Monday, December 11.

The next order of business was presentation of new website ideas by Silvia. She provided handouts detailing several items which we may want to include in the future. These included (1) Job resources – with links to companies in the local area. (2) Links to sources such as iBIO, noting many Illinois companies and links to them could be found at the iBIO site. (3) Instructions on how to tailor a resume for industry versus academic positions. Also discussed was the idea of interviewing people from local pharma and biotech companies to ask questions on what they look for, what determines which resumes get put on the “top” of the pile, current key trends in hiring, etc. The idea of “Career transition stories” and “Member Profiles” was brought up. With the idea being that each month we could feature a person – as a profile or an interview. Several members agreed to work on profile/interviewing someone and providing Silvia with the information for posting to a new page on the website.

As part of the discussions it seemed clear that a topic of interest for the formal meetings during the 2006-2007 year would be gender issues. Theresa mentioned a recent publication by Ellen Daniell (“Every Other Thursday”). Annette noted the recent Nature commentary article on “Does Gender Matter” by Ben Barres. It was decided that Theresa and Annette would work toward finding some potential top-notch speakers on the topic of gender in science.

There was also discussion about “fun” events, without speakers, which would provide some networking opportunities. One of the ideas was “Meet for Drinks at the top of the Hancock”. It was decided this would be a great “opening” event, and Theresa said she would see about availability in Sept/Oct. A second “networking” event was proposed for the spring of 2007 – ideas included a picnic on the lake, wine-tasting, or meeting at Ethels Chocolate Lounge in Evanston.

There was discussion of “educational” panel presentations, in addition to the formal events and networking events. The first, slated for the fall will be on “Starting a Biotech Business”. Annette has offered to take responsibility for identifying speakers. The panel would be in Oct/Nov. A second panel on “How to Network” was also proposed. Thus the overall plan for going forward is 3 type of events (educational panels, networking, large formal key note speakers) which will rotate through the year.

The final discussion of the evening was on ways to use AWIS to give back to the community. Joy brought lots of ideas (and a helpful handout). It was decided that a posting would go out to the awis list-host asking for people interested in mentoring/education to contact Joy, and she will begin matching them with schools looking for people to speak on their science career, judge science fairs, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30. Thanks to Heather for bringing the WINE!!