

Association for Women Geoscientists - Puget Sound Chapter
1910 East 4th Avenue, PMB #65, Olympia, WA 98506
www.awg-ps.org

Chapter Annual Report

October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007

This past fiscal year there was a change in the board, with a new vice-president being appointed.

President - Lynn Moses

Vice-President - Suzanne Dudziak

Secretary - Marcia Knadle

Treasurer - Wendy Gerstel

Other board members for this past fiscal year included Shawn Blaesing-Thompson serving as Publications Committee Chair and Web-mistress; Anne Udaloy serving as the Scholarship Committee Chair; and Paula York, past chapter Vice-President (FY 2004-2005), serving as a Delegate for the Pacific Region. Kirsten Nicolaysen, professor at Whitman College, Pacific Region Alternate Delegate joined the AWG-PS Chapter and was welcomed to the AWG-PS board.

Activities

Four board meetings were held throughout the year, plus a number of membership activities. The documentation of the History of the AWG-Puget Sound chapter is being continued by Marcia Knadle.

The chapter website went down because of a billing glitch, but has been re-established by our capable Webmistress Shawn Blaesing-Thompson. The latest statistics indicate that we have had increased website visits this past year. The calendar is useful for members to identify upcoming chapter activities, events, fieldtrips and people to contact. To help connect the membership, there are plans for a page to spotlight the founding AWG-Puget Sound chapter members, and then other members. The chapter newsletters are routinely sent by email and are also posted on the chapter website. We also electronically send the newsletters to a large number of

interested people who are not currently members. This complimentary copy list is being used for recruitment into the chapter as active members.

During the May 2007 GSA-Cordilleran Section meeting in Bellingham, WA, the AWG-PS Chapter had a booth that was well attended. AWG President Nadine Langley volunteered time at the booth and talked with AWG members. A folio about our chapter was developed for this meeting by Lynn Moses and Shawn Blaesing-Thompson. The folio is attached to this chapter annual report. The folio can also be viewed on the AWG-PS webpage.

Also during the GSA Cordilleran section meeting in Bellingham, WA the AWG-PS chapter joined with the AEG-Washington State Chapter in a mentoring program co-ordinated by Kathy Troost (AWG-PS member) and Lynn Moses. The five selected speakers described their unique work experiences and gave students some great insights on working in the geoscience world. Two AWG-PS members participated: Anne Udaloy presented a delightful and enlightened view of working in the geoscience community as a private consultant; and Tom Badger (AWG-PS member) recapped some of his work experience at WSDOT. An interesting gender difference was noted in that the women presenters discussed making career decisions that included their families as well as the mentoring they received. The male presenters didn't describe any career decisions based on family needs.

Also, during the GSA-Cordilleran Section meeting in Bellingham, WA at the joint mentoring evening meeting, the 2006 AWG-PS Scholarship was awarded to Western Washington College undergraduate Jennifer Fernandes. The \$1,000 scholarship was presented by Anne Udaloy, Scholarship committee chair. A one year membership to the AWG-PS chapter was also given to Jennifer. It was great to see last year's AWG-PS scholarship recipient Jennifer A. Perry present a poster at this GSA-Cordilleran Section meeting entitled "*Observations on New Late Paleozoic Brittle Stars (Echinodermata, Orphiuroidea) from New Mexico and Texas.*" The application requirements for the annual \$1,000 scholarship are identified on the AWG-PS chapter website, with a due date this year of November 17, 2007.

The AWG-PS chapter was very well represented by Vice President Suzanne Dudziak, in the June issue of *Seattle Woman*. The article was entitled *Women in Science Make Connections* by Mary Adam Thomas. Suzanne Dudziak succinctly described the organization and who it serves both at the local chapter and national level. The article was noted in the July-August issue of *Gaea* with a link.

In August, a ballot was sent to the active chapter membership, for electing the chapter officers and to amend the chapter bylaws to include a board position for Past President. An advisory ballot was also sent regarding the merging of the Spokane Chapter with the Puget Sound Chapter, and suggestions for a possible name. The outcome of the advisory ballot was to merge the two chapters. Two suggested names for the new chapter were *Pacific Northwest* and *Cascades*.

At the August 25, 2007 AWG-PS chapter board meeting, the board voted to merge the two chapters and rename the chapter. The two suggested chapter names will be placed on a ballot and sent to the active members of both chapters for a vote. The momentous merging of the two chapters will be celebrated with a fieldtrip and meeting in the upcoming year. Also, the AWG-PS Chapter board voted to amend the chapter bylaws to include a board position for Past-President. The amended bylaws are attached to the chapter annual report.

Field Trips

There were no chapter sponsored field trips this year, but the Northwest Geological Society invited the AWG-PS chapter members to attend their fall fieldtrip on Sept. 22-24, 2007. It is an encore field trip that was run for the Cordilleran GSA meeting last May, entitled "The Chiwaukum Structural Low on the Eastern Flank of the Cascade Range" lead by Eric Cheney, UW Emeritus Professor.

Outreach

The chapter member did not participate in judging the several science fairs this spring because no members were able to volunteer to judge. The three fairs that the chapter members typically judge are the Mid-Columbia

Regional Fair in Kennewick; the South Sound Regional Fair in Tacoma and the Washington State Science and Engineering Fair in Bremerton. The awards for students range from certificates of recognition, to books and savings bonds. Judging these science fairs is an excellent way of connecting with the students after they have developed a science project for presentation. The board has discussed the need to announce the upcoming fairs well in advance of the event by placing the fairs on the chapter calendar as future chapter activities and actively soliciting the membership for volunteers to judge at the fairs. Shawn Blaesing-Thompson has developed instructional packages for judges identifying their duties and roles, and has an inventory of awards.

Shawn Blaesing-Thompson submitted two AWGF proposals for the AWG-Puget Sound chapter for funding. The AWGF awarded the two proposals, each with its own account name. The AWGF awarded the chapter \$1,000/year for the *Scholarship fund* for two fiscal years (2005-2006 and 2006-2007). The AWGF also awarded the chapter \$285/year for two fiscal years for *Science Fair support* which covers costs for student awards and judges expenses. A requirement for these AWGF awards is that the AWG-PS chapter members need to raise half of each of those amounts each year.

Another scholarship outreach, thanks to Anne Udalo, is the AWG-PS connection with the University of Washington Undergraduate Scholarship Fair that is held on campus each year. This will be the third year for AWG-PS chapter participation at the October 2007 scheduled event. It is a great opportunity for the chapter to gain recognition with UW undergraduate students.

The AWG-PS chapter outreach concept of finding ways to support high school and college students by reinforcing and mentoring girls and young women and showing them that science is interesting and fulfilling as a career was put into practice this past spring at the GSA Cordilleran Section meeting in Bellingham. Lynn Moses participated in the Roy J. Shlemon Mentors in Applied Geoscience Program by meeting and talking with students at a luncheon, and answering questions about working in the field of geoscience. The board is considering a one-year appointment of a Junior-Senior-Graduate school level college student for representation on the

AWG-PS board, with voting privileges. This will be pursued by the outgoing AWG-PS chapter president.

Another outreach concept not realized is to develop a program with a process to supply small (\$100-\$500 range) mini-grants to support student scientific research. This program would let student's apply for grants to fund some or all of a project. The board members are considering creating and appointing a Grant Committee Chair to help develop the framework and outline the process.

This past year we have continued connecting with other professional groups in the Puget Sound Area by participating in joint meetings and functions that cross membership interests. The professional groups we have contacted are the Northwest Geological Society (NWGS), Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG-Washington chapter), the Association for Women in Science (AWIS), and the Association of Women in Environmental Professions (AWEP).

An AEG-AWG joint dinner meeting was held October, 19, 2006 in Seattle with a talk by Edwin Harp, and Rex Baum on "*USGS Landslide Work in Seattle.*" At this talk Anne Udeloy presented the speakers with AWG mugs. A joint dinner meeting was held with NWGS on November 14, 2006 with a talk by Amelia Shevenell (UW) on "*Miocene Climate Change Record in Antarctica.*" Anne Udeloy presented the speaker with an AWG mug. This fall AWEP-AWG will present a joint panel discussion on "*New Issues in Groundwater Remediation.*" AWG members on the panel are: Suzanne Dudziak, Anne Udaloy, Marcia Knadle and Heather Vick.

Our membership has increased from 42 to 45, with members from Canada and Oregon, and our hopes are to continue with an upward trend this next year, especially with the merging of the two chapters. Our finances are sound with a balance of \$3,952 in the Chapter's coffers. We hope to add to our scholarship and science fair funds this next year with contributions from local sponsors, and chapter members. The board has worked tirelessly and efficiently this past year carrying out the chapter activities and achieving our goals, while maintaining and balancing their professional and personal lives.

Officers for 2007-2008

President - Heather Vick
Vice-President - Suzanne Dudziak
Secretary - Marcia Knadle
Treasurer - Wendy Gerstel
Past-President - Lynn Moses

Shawn Blaesing-Thompson will continue as the Publications Committee Chair and Webmistress; Anne Udaloy will continue serving as the Scholarship Committee Chair, and Kirsten Nicolaysen will continue as Pacific Region Alternate Delegate.

Submitted by:
Lynn J. Moses
AWG-Puget Sound Chapter President
September 12, 2007