

A Committee of One's Own: A History of the CSWP

The Committee on the Status of Women in Physics

Brown = historical activity
Green = current activity

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The APS Council formed a Committee on Women in Physics in April 1971

The Council of the American Physical Society, at its meeting, April 1971, established a Committee on Women in Physics to consider the problems particular to women physicists and to submit a report by February 1972. In this report, the Committee

From Physics Today, July 1972

The APS Council formed the Committee on the Status of Women in Physics in January 1972

Granted "Bylaws Status" in 1991 along with the Committee on Minorities

Woman Physicist of the Month

- Started 2012
- Published in the WIPHYS email
- Promoting visibility for women in physics
- Self-nominate or nomination from others
- Eventually shut down due to lack of nominations and interest

The Gazette: A Newsletter of the Committee on the Status of Women in Physics

The first Gazette was issued in 1981

C. O. S. W. I. P. GAZETTE
A Newsletter of the Committee on the Status of Women in Physics of the American Physical Society
13 February/1 March, 1981

CSWP **Gazette**
A Newsletter of the Committee on the Status of Women in Physics of the American Physical Society

Getting fancy!

CSWP **Gazette**
A Newsletter of the Committee on the Status of Women in Physics of the American Physical Society

The Gazette became a joint newsletter with COM in 2011

APS **Gazette**
A Newsletter of the Committee on the Status of Women in Physics of the American Physical Society

The last Gazette was issued in 2023

APS **Gazette**
A Newsletter of the Committee on the Status of Women in Physics of the American Physical Society

Climate Site Visits

Started in 1990

Over 100 visits so far!

First non-academic department visit: 2000

First national lab visit: 2002, Argonne

Initial work done by Millie Dresselhaus & Judy Franz

Pilot test sites:
• Maryland
• RPI
• Bryn Mawr
• Williams
• Penn

Originally 2/year capacity
2008: more requests than capacity

2017: redesign of site visit procedures

2020: redesign of site visit subcommittee
New capacity: 6/year

Your department can be next!

<https://www.aps.org/initiatives/inclusion/site-visits>



The Women in Physics listserv WIPHYS 1992-2016

GAZETTE
3 APS Gazette of CSWP Gazette Now Available
IN THE NEWS
2 Harvard's Summer Session, 2/21/06
5 Controversial Article
JWI MEETING
4 Visiting Faculty Position, College of the Holy Cross
MESSAGE ONE
SPRING ISSUE OF CSWP GAZETTE NOW AVAILABLE
The spring 2004 issue of the CSWP Gazette Newsletter can be found at <http://www.aps.org/edu/cswp/gazette/> (pdf file). If you subscribe, you should receive your copy in the mail shortly. If you would like to subscribe (no charge) please send a message with your mailing address to wip@aps.org.
MESSAGE TWO
HARVARD'S SUMMER SESSIONS
Lawrence Summers, President of Harvard, has resigned. Washington Post, 2/21/06, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/02/21/AR2006022103841.html>
MESSAGE THREE
CONTROVERSIAL ARTICLE
"Men, Women, and Choice in Science", Peter A. Lawrence
Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology
Cambridge, United Kingdom. Published January 17, 2006
<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/131.3271/131.3271.full.pdf>
This controversial article was considered, accepted and then refused by Science.
Albert Chalkin
alchalk@aps.org

Some CSWP Chairs through the years

- Millie Dresselhaus
- Judy Franz
- Beverly Hartline
- Laurie McNeil
- Sherry Yennello
- And so many more!

Female-Friendly Physics Departments

- Online list of graduate departments started 2005
- Departments filled out form to be added
- Stats for % women, female-friendly policies
- Eventually unpublished due to issues with updating and data collection

Grants

- Women in Physics Group grants (2015-)
- Childcare grants for meetings
- Speaker grants for women (1990-?)

Did you know about these past CSWP activities?

- Survey of industrial labs 1983
- Tenure committee survey 1984
- "Physics in Your Future" pamphlet
- Panel for Female Faculty Hiring 19??-1990
- Survey on hiring practices 1990
- Women in Industry breakfast at APS March(?) meeting
- Creation of APS Statement on Women in Physics
- Sexual harassment subcommittee helped created APS Code of Conduct
- Effective Practices documents (one-upped by EP3—head to ep3guide.org)
- Support for PGRE statement
- Subcommittee looking at student evaluations of teaching
- What else do you remember? Tell your stories with the link below!

Professional Skills Development Workshops

- 2005 - ~2015
- Sessions at APS meeting
- Focused on negotiation, communication
- Originally for tenured women, then broadened
- Eventually led to...

Negotiation and Communication Seminars

- Funded by NSF 2015
- Train the trainer approach
- List of speakers across the country trained to give seminars
- Aimed more at students
- Kind of fizzled out after NSF \$ ended

CU*IP: The Conference(s) for Undergraduate Women and Gender Minorities in Physics

- APS sponsorship started in 2012
- Multiple sites across the country
- More than 1500 attendees some years!
- This year, CU*IP is merged with the Summit



Speaker List

- Women sign up themselves
- List the topics they can talk about
- Seminar organizers could look at list for ideas
- Unknown end date

The Roster of Women in Physics

- Created by the original Committee on Women in Physics in 1971-72
- Word of mouth "advertising"
- Published and available to order (print) copies
- Computerized(!) in 1978-1980
- Graduate students added in 1975
- Postdocs added in 1980
- Still functioning in 2008
- Unknown end date

Wiki Edit-a-thons

- Sessions at APS meetings
- Adding female scientists to Wikipedia

Awards and Honors

- Luise Meyer-Schutzmeister Memorial Award at UIUC (1982)
- Maria Goeppert Mayer Award (1985-)
- Laura Eisenstein Award at UIUC (1985)
- Blewett Award (2005-)
- Woman Physicist of the Month (2012-20??)

The Future?

Exciting changes are coming! As physics keeps evolving, so does its relationship with women, and so must the CSWP.

Share your stories about the CSWP!
<https://forms.gle/c8S8azq8NFuHeCMA9>

