



SWIGS 2016-2017 NEWSLETTER

SOCIETY FOR WOMEN IN GRADUATE STUDIES IN CHEMISTRY & BIOCHEMISTRY

YEAR IN REVIEW

Hello! Welcome to the fourth annual newsletter of the Society for Women in Graduate Studies in Chemistry and Biochemistry (SWIGS).

This year we welcomed new officers Katia Charov (Burkart lab), Joseph Palomba (Cohen lab), and Naneki McCallum (Gianneschi lab) to our leadership team, which also

included returning officers Katherine, Faith, Yanice, and Jessie, who kept our momentum rolling as we added more members, mailing list recipients, and new activities to our calendar!

We boasted an especially active professional development presence with several hosted seminar speakers and industry guests as part of our Alternative Careers Series and record attendance at our annual summer networking event.

Beyond our efforts to expose students to possible non-traditional career paths, we also kept up last year's

community building events with informal gatherings throughout the month over coffee and beer and this year initiated a SWIGS book club.

Our reach continues to grow with now over **133** mailing list subscribers, **35** official members and over **30** events held during the year. It was truly



(left to right) Officers Faith, Joey, Katherine, Naneki, Yanice, Katia

a spectacular year for SWIGS and a great pleasure to be recognized in the department and campus-wide as an inclusive and productive organization.

The rest of this newsletter contains highlights from our busy year as we would not have enough room to discuss every one of our endeavors. We thank everyone in the department who has helped make SWIGS an enormous success over the years, and hope to see you at upcoming events!

~Katherine

MEETING TOPICS

- July**
Greeting our New Female Faculty
- August**
Scientific Graphic Workshop
- September**
Scientific Startups
- October**
Tips for Setting and Achieving Goals
- November**
Working in Local Industry
- December**
Science and Policy
- January**
Hobbies in Grad School
- February**
Communication using Podcasts
- March**
Gender Bias Against Men
- April**
Interviewing Workshop
- May**
Importance of Outreach

SPECIAL THANKS

Stacey Brydges, Partho Ghosh, Seth Cohen, Erica Lennard, Jeanine Kolinko, Jeff Rances, Amy Tran, Richard Thomas, Bob Continetti, Cliff Kubiak, Josh Figueroa, and especially the department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, GSA, ChemGSA for financial support!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Networking, speakers, and informing options for Non-Traditional Career Paths

SWIGS' Networking events were crowd-pleasers this year! In July we hosted our annual Summer Networking event for over 80 grads and faculty members.



Each nametag had the picture and name of a famous woman scientist on it, and fun facts about the scientists were distributed to act as a conversation starter. Then in November, Dr. Marilyn Perrin of the Salk Institute spoke

to SWIGS members and department grads at our Women in Chemistry networking event about her nontraditional and fascinating journey through her PhD, career, and life so far. Her story was nothing short of inspirational, and we enjoyed her wonderful example of how dedication and passion will lead to a fulfilling career no matter how many twists and turns life takes.

Additionally, SWIGS continued its Alternative Careers in Chemistry seminar series with talks from an industry scientist from DVS

Sorption Systems and a senior scientist from the DEA! SWIGS members especially enjoyed Dr. Rodriguez-Cruz's insights into how a PhD can lead to a rewarding career in the federal government, with fascinating insights and anecdotes about the excitement and perks that a career in the DEA can provide. Members of the community were also given the opportunity to have lunch and a meet-the-speaker section with Dr. Rodriguez-Cruz to ask personalized questions about her career path.

~Jessie

INTERCLUB CONNECTIONS

With ACS-SA and ACS-SD coalitions

This year we were able to continue the success of working with the undergraduate American Chemical Society affiliate (ACSSA) as well as expand to working with the San Diego section of the ACS. In the fall we hosted a panel of graduate students who recounted their experience before and during grad school to members of the ACSSA. This event was such a success that there was not time to answer a mountain of questions from curious students, so we

teamed up to host a mixer in the spring. In May members of SWIGS ate dinner and socialized with members of ACSSA to give them a chance to ask more personalized questions. At the end of May, three groups of graduate students led tours visiting three different chemistry labs. This event was a great way for early career undergraduate students to see what research might be like and be inspired to inquire about working in a lab themselves.

In April SWIGS

combined forces with the San Diego ACS to have a social hour at the White Labs tasting room in Miramar. The event fostered interest in continued collaboration between the two groups and also featured a personal tour of the yeast labs and production facility. For the coming year SWIGS will have a dedicated coordinator position in charge of connecting the two groups in order to allow SWIGS to have connection in the San Diego community.

~Joey

OUTREACH

Inspiring the Next Generation of Scientists

This year, SWIGS not only continued its involvement with established outreach opportunities but also participated in a new workshop! The new workshop this year was performing demonstrations at the Sycamore Canyon Elementary School Science Fair.



This workshop aimed at exposing young elementary school students to fun science. We also represented for UC San Diego and informed the young students about the university. By the end of the event, all the kids were walking around with "I Love UCSD" stickers!

We continued holding workshops at the Expanding Your Horizons Conference (EYH) which we've been attending for **four consecutive years!** EYH is held at the University of San Diego and it engages young girls in STEM by introducing them to topics through hands-on activities. This year was the second time that we held the "Magic Show" workshop which demonstrated the "magic-like" outcomes that chemistry experiments can have. The girls learned how to collapse a can, and make an assortment of things like elephant toothpaste, a cloud, and a non-Newtonian substance. We also continued our popular "Molecular Gastronomy" workshop at EYH, where the girls learned about the chemistry of food by making lemon spaghetti, juice caviar, and instant sorbet.

Earlier in the year, SWIGS held our annual "Smells" table at the ACS ChemExpo at Miramar College, which aimed

to increase public awareness of the importance of chemistry in everyday life and in the community.



At the "Smells" table, we displayed jars containing various hidden fruits, spices, and extracts labeled with the characteristic chemical structure responsible for each smell. People of all ages lined up to smell each jar and guess which food item each smell corresponded to. Our involvement in outreach this year was a fun and collaborative experience. We hope for more outreach opportunities to be involved in in the upcoming years!

~ Yanice

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Amongst SWIGS members and within the department

The original SWIGS constitution states “the purpose of our group is to build a community amongst all graduate students and post docs within the Chemistry & Biochemistry Department at UC San Diego.” This sentiment has lived on through many revisions of the constitution and continues to be one of the main reasons our members join. This year we were happy to sustain several community activities from previous years. For the second year in a row we hosted a lunch for the first-year graduate students during orientation, because who doesn't love free lunch? We continue to hold coffee and brewery meet-ups once a month; did you know that

coffee and Trader Joe's cheese puffs go together well? Look out for more coffee meet-ups and weird flavor combinations this next year.

Jamie hosted a BBQ for those involved in the mentorship program – delicious and supportive! We also started inviting the community to hang out before our monthly meetings: half an hour before each meeting began, we brought out the snacks, opened the doors to Pacific Hall 4501 and enjoyed a relaxing lunch with friends and colleagues. It seemed that a lot of you liked this! We'll definitely keep these informal lunches around in the new year. We also began a book club. Jessie led discussion of

the best-seller “Lab Girl,” all about one woman's journey from childhood to graduate student to successful professor in the world of plant biology. Katherine hosted a discussion on the book “Every Other Tuesday” about a women's group started in the SF Bay area for productive academic career building support.

Thank you to all who attended the coffee and brewery meet-ups, meetings and lunches! Your camaraderie and unique insights are what makes SWIGS great. What does community in the department and in SWIGS mean to you?

~Katia

PLANNING AHEAD

Getting Ready for SWIGS 2017-2018

As our organization continues to grow, now a recognized name both within and outside of the chemistry & biochemistry department, we will keep on generating new ideas and propel our members into exciting discussions and events which enrich our graduate experience. We will welcome returning officers **Jessie Moreton** (President), **Katia Charov** (Vice President), & **Joey Palomba** (Community Organizer), while adding new

officers **Liora Mael** (Outreach), & **Ellen Coddens** (Professional Development) for an incredibly strong leadership core. In addition, a new tiered leadership structure will allow non-officer SWIGS members to plan and execute SWIGS events, increasing leadership opportunities for all SWIGS members, not just officers. We plan to continue fan-favorite events that the department has come to recognize as SWIGS traditions, while

expanding into new territory with potential ideas for **student seminars**, more talks by local industry connections, and a wider variety of community-building events. We hope you will keep an eye out for our updates, engage with us on any event ideas or opportunities that might be of interest to our members, and (of course!) join our mailing list if you'd like more information about what SWIGS can do for you. ~ Katherine & Jessie