

ORNL COMMITTEE FOR WOMEN FY2007 YEAR-END SUMMARY

Membership:

Roxanne Raschke (Chair), Sarah Cousineau (Vice-Chair), Julia White (Historian), Karen Downer (Leadership Team Liaison), Cathy Cheverton, Jaigne Christman, Cymbeline Culiati, Katherine Finnie, Brenda Hackworth, Kristy Styles Herron, Lynn Kszos, Madhavi Martin, Melanie Moses, Cecilia Rowe, and Thomas Shea.

Summary:

The first meeting of the FY2007 Committee for Women (CFW) was held on September 12, 2006. During this meeting, the new committee brainstormed on ideas for the upcoming year. In the following two monthly meetings, the committee finalized a list of FY2007 initiatives and organized subcommittees to lead the respective projects.

One of the committee's highest priorities for 2007 was the development of a formal CFW charter, including a complete set of bylaws. A draft of the charter was constructed in December. The charter was finalized and voted on January and February, and the final charter was submitted to ORNL Human resources in March. After a few minor changes, the charter was approved. The official charter is now posted on the ORNL Human Resources management description page: http://sbms.ornl.gov/sbms/SBMSearch/MSD/Hr/HRD_MSD.cfm .

Another top priority for the committee this year was the continuing effort to obtain an ORNL on-site day care facility. Progress on this front was made in the form of a formal statement of support from Corporate Fellows (Jacob Barhen, Paul Becher, James Beene, Lynn Boatner, Benjamin Carreras, Virginia Dale, Stan David, Charles Forsberg, Tony Gabriel, Al Geist, Elias Greenbaum, David Greene, Richard Haire, Robert Harrison, Gene Ice, Russ Knapp, Ben Larson, Douglas Lowndes, Anthony Mezzacappa, John Mihalcz, Stephen Pennycook, Francois Pin, Nageswara Rao, Vinod Sikka, Malcolm Stock, Thomas Thundat, Ken Tobin, Thomas Wilbanks, and Steven Zinkle).

A mission statement from the Advisory Team was outlined, and a straw man operating budget was drafted by Kristy Herron and Karla Gaither. In addition, Jeff Smith, deputy for operations, has requested that Human Resources (HR) director Lori Barreras build and present a business case to DOE, that she assume occupation of 10–15K square feet in the new Science and Technology Park. Lori met with the Y-12 director and confirmed that they have an interest in the day care facility as well. Meanwhile, in a separate but similar meeting with Karla Gaither, the ORNL school system indicated no interest in the facility. Finally, the ORNL CFW Childcare Initial Sharepoint site which houses historical archives and research initiatives is now operational, and can be found at: <http://sharepoint.ornl.gov/cfw/Shared Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

The committee opened up its events calendar on February 8, 2007, with the first Woman-to-Woman seminar of the year. The seminar was titled “Woman-to-Woman: Career Perspectives Across a Generation,” and featured three women at different stages of a professional career. The three enthusiastic speaker recruits were Robin Graham of the Environmental Sciences Division,

Christina Hoffmann of the Neutron Sciences Directorate, and Laetitia Delmou of the Chemical Sciences Division. The speakers compared and contrasted their career experiences and the professional and personal challenges they have encountered. The seminar was well attended (~40 people), and audience feedback was very positive.

Rolling into March, the committee recognized Women's History Month by coordinating a "Women in Science" poster session on Main Street on March 20, and by co-hosting a rendition of the play *Remembering Miss Meitner* in conjunction with the Women in Nuclear (WIN) organization. presented on March 27 at the American Museum of Science and Energy. The committee also added 10 new books to the Women's Professional Development center in the ORNL library.

In April, the committee hosted two sessions of "Secretaries on the Move," a seminar event geared towards ORNL administrative professionals. In these seminars, the audience heard personal stories of six women who transitioned from secretarial positions to other professions within ORNL. The first seminar, held on April 18, featured guest speakers Teresa Baer (Central Complex Facility Manager, Facilities and Operations Directorate), Susie Kuliasha (Business Manager, Southeast Region Research Initiative, National Security Directorate), and Leila Sutherland (Human Resources Manager, Human Resource Directorate). For the second seminar, held on April 26, the guest speakers were Carol Scott (Directorate Operations Manager, Environment, Safety, Health and Quality Directorate), Lara James (PSAC Business Operations Manager, National Security Directorate), Kathy Thomas (Technical Support Specialist, Physical Sciences Directorate). During both events, Debbie Stairs from the HR directorate provided an overview of how HR can help with career decisions. The seminars were very popular and between the two attracted over 100 attendees. The feedback to the CFW following the seminars was extremely positive, and many of the attendants remarked that they felt inspired by the speakers.

Following close on the heels of the "Secretaries on the Move" events, on May 8 the CFW co-hosted a visit by Dr. Nina Byers, an expert in the history of women in physics and the author of the book *Out of the Shadows: Contributions of 20th Century Women Physicists*. Dr. Byers gave a seminar on her book at the American Museum of Energy and Science which was sponsored by the Friends of ORNL club. The featured event for the CFW was a catered luncheon with Dr. Byers 35 guests from the lab. During the luncheon, Dr. Byers recounted her own experiences as a female career scientist, and relayed some of her knowledge of the experiences of other women physicists during the 20th century. A lively discussion on the topic of past and current issues for women in science ensued throughout the luncheon.

Early in the month of June, the CFW, along with other affinity groups, formally introduced itself to the summer intern population through a brown-bag luncheon. The students were welcomed to the lab and given information about the activities of the various groups. Ice cream was served and ORNL paraphernalia was given away at a raffle.

On June 22, the CFW hosted a seminar by Dr. Steve Stow entitled, "Supporting the Manhattan Project at Oak Ridge: The Roles Women Played (and Didn't Play)." The seminar was held in Weinberg auditorium and drew an audience of over 100 attendees. Dr. Stow gave a short

historical summary of the involvement of Oak Ridge in the Manhattan project followed by a comprehensive and entertaining account of the contributions of women to the project, including the personal stories and recollections of women who worked at the lab during that period of time.

Finally, to close out the events calendar for the year, another Woman-to-Woman seminar was held on August 21. The title of the seminar was “The Juggling Act: Mother, Wife, Career Professional,” with guest speakers Claudia Rawn from the Materials Science and Technology Division, and Linda Lewis from the Chemical Science Division. The seminar was as usual well attended and discussions between the audience and the speakers ensued throughout the hour.

The committee met one final at the year-end luncheon on August 14. At this time, both the current FY2007 and the new FY2008 committee members were present.