ESWNews
Fall, 2006 from the Earth Science Women's Network
Public Edition

Getting more official…

Thanks for checking out our very first newsletter! We have many exciting things to report, so we decided to make the leap from email updates to something a little snazzier.

As of September 14, 2006, we have a total of 246 women signed up on the email list. Of those, we have the contact information for 163 women on the web.

Of these 163, we have 47 different universities, 10 different governmental agencies, and 12 major laboratories, research organizations, or companies (e.g. UCAR, NCAR, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, Lawrence Livermore, and others).

Looking at the list as a whole, we have even more diversity, including representation in 8 different countries. Wow!

Research collaborations, new jobs, informal mentoring, and new friends have resulted from our listserv and get-togethers. Credit for the growth and success of the group goes to … you!

ESWN exists to help you get connected to each other, so that you have someone to ask for advice, to read over your job applications, or to meet for dinner at a meeting. Thanks for doing your part, spreading the word, and helping out: it all adds up to create an amazing group!

But, now, how do we make our group even more effective?

A few needs have become obvious: funding for events and improved group coordination, a website, and some leadership structure to make and implement new plans. We’re just starting to put these frameworks in place, and welcome your feedback!

New Website

Keep your eyes open for developments on our new website. It’s just a start, but offers a nice “public face” for our growing group.

www.sage.wisc.edu/eswn

As we connect with funding to support our activities, we hope to use the website to promote connections within the group, archive successful job applications and grant proposals, and host discussion groups on topics of professional and personal interest.

Thanks to University of Wisconsin’s Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment (SAGE) for hosting our group!
You Are Invited

... to the 4th Annual ESWN Reception at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Meeting in San Francisco this December.

We’ll have lots of gourmet hors d’oeuvres, a cash bar, and a private room at Jillian’s, right across the street from the Moscone Center.

When: Monday, Dec 11th

Where: Jillian’s @ Metreon

For More Info, Email Meredith Hastings (mhasting at atmos dot washington dot edu)

RSVP Required

A great opportunity to see old friends and meet new ones!

No cover. Cash bar.

Thanks to NCAR for providing generous support. Also, thanks to Meredith, Christine, and Allison for getting this fun event together!

ESWN Leadership Board

Ever since the start of ESWN back in 2002 – as an 8-person mailing list! – there has been a group of us working behind the scenes to help ESWN grow: setting up the listserv, organizing get-togethers, soliciting opinions, and thinking about the future.

Six of us who have been most active in recent ESWN activities have formed a Leadership Board:

- Arlene Fiore, Scientist, NOAA Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory
- Meredith Hastings, Asst. Prof., Brown University (currently a post-doc at University of Washington-Seattle)
- Tracey Holloway, Asst. Prof., University of Wisconsin—Madison
- Galen McKinley, Asst. Prof., University of Wisconsin—Madison
- Allison Steiner, Asst. Prof., University of Michigan—Ann Arbor
- Christine Wiedinmyer, Scientist I, National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)

Appointments on the Board will extend for a 2-year period. We will hold general elections starting in Fall of 2008 to determine the ongoing make-up of the Board.

We would like to include one or two more members on the Board at this time. Please consider applying! If you are interested, just send us your CV and a short email addressing three questions:

1) Why do you want to be on the ESWN Leadership Board?
2) What have you done so far to strengthen ESWN (e.g. organized meeting get-togethers, invited new members to join, posted job announcements, etc.)
3) What would you like to do in the future to strengthen ESWN?

Please send the CV and (short, informal) answers to the ESWN Board email.

The board will help coordinate the many activities currently taking place under the ESWN umbrella.
What’s in a Name?

A goal of scientific publishing is to “make a name for yourself!” But, when women start publishing single, then meet a perfect mate… what to do about names? The listserv discussion sparked by Rebecca Michelsen, an assistant professor at Randolph-Macon College in Virginia, generated some fascinating insights about last names, marriage, and the solutions adopted by many successful scientists. Rebecca tallied the results and summarized key points (thank you, Rebecca!).

Of the 48 total responses, nine women changed their names to their husband’s. Of these, five took their original surname as their middle name; several have publications under both names (they did not report any problems with having publications under two different names); two said they missed their maiden name (one now wishes she had kept her maiden name professionally). Twenty-six women kept their name, including one woman who had originally changed it for her first marriage, but kept her maiden name when re-marrying. The only complaint among this group was occasional confusion among parents and grandparents. Five respondents use their original name professionally, but changed to their husband’s legally/personally. Two of these women changed back to their maiden name due to confusion. One problem is with administration taking the legal name necessary for taxes, and applying it to everything else (office, course lists, etc.). Another problem is with checks being made out to a professional name, which does not exist legally (in this particular case, the respondent’s bank still cashes her checks). Nine women did something creative: Two chose to create a hyphenated name with husband’s; one hyphenated first- and second- husbands’ names, so that she shares a name with both her husband and her children; one woman reported that both she and her husband changed their last name to two last names: the wife’s then the husband’s (but not hyphenated); two reported that their husband took on their last name; two reported picking a new name (usually a combination) with their husband.

General Lessons Learned:

- Hyphenating seems to be the most confusing option, especially for citation indices.
- Unique names are useful for scientists—they are easier to find and harder to confuse.
- You can always change your mind later.
- There are many approaches to this culturally, e.g., the matriarchal system in parts of India, or the two-last-names approach of Latin America.
- Children often end up with their father’s name, but there were also reports of using both names for the kids, or the mom’s name for girls and the dad’s name for boys.

Comments in the discussion also pointed to potential changes to “the system” that could make life easier for scientists with name issues of any variety. Science citation methods should reflect contributions made under different names. Universities should decouple a faculty member’s legal name from her chosen, professional name in directories and other official listings. Conference organizers should take care to list attendees by their professional names, and not assume “one name fits all.” We may not be able to change banks, airline policies, or the IRS, but we hope our scientific communities and universities will soon be able to adjust to the single or married woman scientist, by any name.
Spread the Word

If you are already an ESWN Member, please continue to personally invite friends and colleagues to join our group!

We encourage you to use the email list to establish both personal and professional connections.

If you're not yet a member and wish to join, just email one of the members of the Leadership Board:

Arlene Fiore (Arlene dot Fiore at noaa dot gov), Meredith Hastings (mhasting at atmos dot washington dot edu), Galen McKinley (galen at aos dot wisc dot edu), Tracey Holloway (taholloway at wisc dot edu), Allison Steiner, (asteiner at nature dot berkeley dot edu), or Christine Wiedinmyer (christin at ucar dot edu)

If you email us, we'll send you info on how to register for the mailing list – it’s very easy!

Q: Why isn’t there an easy, on-line way to register?

A: We love the personal feel of the group, and we want to maintain that “friend-of-a-friend” feeling even as we grow. That said, any woman scientist is welcome to join!

Any of our nearly 250 members can point you to the registration website. If you don’t know a member personally, just email a board member and we’re happy to connect you up.

If you are just interested in learning more about us, check out our public website http://www.sage.wisc.edu/eswn

Benefits of Membership:

- Active listserv to meet other members, share job announcements, and discuss topics of interest
- Invitations to EWSN get-togethers at major meetings
- Build one-on-one relationships for research collaboration or informal mentoring
- No membership fee
- Help shape our future! What can we do to help you succeed?
Publications – We’ve been very productive!

(These are just the smattering of papers that we know about – keep us posted with your latest publications and successful proposals. We’d love to share your good news! Please pardon the mismatched citation styles…) 


