



Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (WiSET) group

www.soton.ac.uk/~wiset

Annual Report 2005/2006

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This is the third annual report from the WiSET group, launched in 2002. Since its re-inception, it has been involved in a review of the promotion of women, Action Learning Sets, childcare survey, the development of mentoring networks, the University's Equal Pay Review Board, Diversity and ATHENA SWAN Charter activities. It now has members from across the University.

Athena Swan Award

The Athena Swan Charter is a scheme that recognises excellence in SET employment in higher education. The development of the Athena SWAN Charter was made possible by the support of the UK Resource Centre for Women in SET and with funding from the European Social Fund under the Equal initiative. The University of Southampton was one of the first signatories to the Charter when it was launched in June 2005.

This year the University was successful in its bid for the Bronze Athena Award. WiSET members participated in the self assessment process by the university, representing those

- with personal experience of balancing home/caring responsibilities and work/part time/flexible working/career breaks
- from a dual career family (the partner does not have to be from a SET background)
- with recent experience of the institutions/departments recruitment and or promotion processes
- at different stages on the career ladder and particularly from those in early and mid career
- with departmental/management responsibilities/university responsibilities for eg staff development/ equal opportunities

Feedback from our application was most positive and we are now looking for support to move to Silver!



University Award for support to Women in Science

Left to right: Lord Rees, President of the Royal Society; Jane Hart Chair WiSET 2004-5; Professor Joe Hammond, dean Faculty of Engineering Science and Mathematics; Andrea Russell, Chair WiSET 2003-2004.

Campbell Lecture

The Campbell Lecture represents a key part of our visibility project to showcase the high quality of women scientists both internationally and at Southampton at all stages of their career. It is named in honour of Ishbell Campbell (1906-1997) who was one of the founding academics of the University of Southampton, a reader in Chemistry as well as a committed teacher and inspiration for women in

science. The Campbell Lecture represents a key part of a visibility project, to show the high quality of women scientists both internationally and at Southampton, at all stages of their careers.

The University hosted its 3rd Campbell Lecture on Tuesday, May 2nd 2006. This year's speaker was Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Visiting Professor at the University of Oxford and a Professorial Fellowship at Mansfield College, Oxford. Her lecture was entitled '**Careering through Astronomy**'.

Professor Bell Burnell, is the discoverer of the first radio pulsars. She has been awarded Oppenheimer prize, the Michelson medal, the Tinsley prize and the Magellanic Premium by learned bodies in the US and the Herschel Medal by the Royal Astronomical Society. She was made a CBE in 1999 and that year also won the Edinburgh Medal for services to science and society. Jocelyn became an FRS in 2003, and FRSE in 2004. She has served as President of the Royal Astronomical Society (2002-2004) and was elected a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences in 2005.

Campbell Lecture 2006

From left to right: Dr Geraldine Clough, Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Professor Bill Wakeham, Zeldia Franklin-Hills, Dr Malgosia Kakzmarek.



Also included in this report is the Campbell Lecture 2005 given by Professor Dame Julia Higgins DBE FRS FEng, who spoke on 'The responsibility of being a scientist'.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BEING A SCIENTIST: DAME JULIA HIGGINS GIVES THE SECOND CAMPBELL LECTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY



From left to right: Dr Andrea Russell, Professor Paul Curran, Professor Julia Higgins, Dr Jane Hart, Dr Geraldine Clough

Dame Julia Higgins is Professor of Polymer Science at Imperial College London, where she is also Director of the Graduate School of Engineering and Physical Sciences. She is Chair of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and Foreign Secretary and Vice President

of the Royal Society. Dame Julia has a strong interest in the participation of women in science, engineering and technology (SET) and is a member and past chair of the steering group of the Athena Project, which exists to support the advancement of women in SET in higher education.

During her lecture to an overflowing Chemistry Lecture theatre, she spoke of her role in overseeing the Royal Society's international relations programme and in particular her unexpected but stimulating contacts with other scientists and scientific academies. She then went on to discuss the responsibilities of a scientist not only to do good science and to use science well but also to face the challenges of engaging and communicating with the public.

Web Page www.soton.ac.uk/~wiset

The web page, while a little sparse still, is up and active. Pearl John is currently co-ordinating material and links for the site. Please contact her (p.john@soton.ac.uk) with items that you would like to see there. We are currently preparing a WiSET flier to be distributed across the University. You may also notice that we have a new logo.

Other Activities

During the year WiSET organised an open forum for women academics in SET interested in understanding more about the work/life balance and making positive changes. This session entitled

'Getting the Balance Right' was facilitated by Julie Hurst of the Work Life Balance Centre. Feed back from the session was mixed, the majority, however, finding it thought provoking and a useful networking opportunity.

Members of WiSET have also been invited to participated in a number of University review panels, including the Equal pay Review board. These provide an important opportunity for the exchange of ideas and for raising awareness of our activities.

The Future

Professor Jane Hart is returning as Chair for the coming year. She will of course have her own agenda. However, there remain opportunities to improve communication within the University and outside, particularly in the sharing of good practice and training opportunities. We welcome the establishment of WiLASS and hope that the two groups will be able to jointly work to their strengths in the coming years.

I would like to acknowledge the support that we have received from Zelda Franklin Hills and her team. Her advocacy of WiSET and support for its activities has played a key role in our success. We wish her well in her new life in Scotland.