Minutes of Fall General Meeting
October 24, 2011
UT SU 3020, 2:00–3:30pm

• Welcome and Introductions
  Welcome to the Fall meeting of the Northwest Ohio chapter of AWIS.
  
  Report on last meeting:
  Spring 2012, with Dr. Anne Baker, Executive Director of Toledo Zoo, as speaker. Silent auction raised approximately $850 that night.

• A Brief History of AWIS
  AWIS is an advocacy organization, not a professional organization. It is about mentoring and support of women in the sciences.
  
  Started in 1971 at the annual FASEB meeting, women scientists formed a group to overcome job discrimination, lower pay and professional isolation. During the 70s and 80s AWIS focused on becoming organized and building the network so they could better advocate for women. In the 90s the goal turned towards mentoring and networking in an attempt to reach the largest possible number of young women. This was followed by a period of renewal and growth during which time AWIS became politically active, joining other groups to strengthen Title IX with regards to STEM academe, and extending their advocacy internationally in China.
  
  AWIS today continues to fight for equity and career advancement for women regardless of job or position. The current focus is on graduate students and diversity while continuing to support diverse career pathways and entry and re–entry into the workforce. (See our website for a copy of the Strategic Plan for 2011–2014).

• The Northwest Ohio Chapter of AWIS
  The Northwest Ohio chapter was founded in 2005 by four UT faculty – Patsy Komuniecki, Karen Bjorkman, Deborah Vestal and Nancy Morrison. The chapter has brought in internationally acclaimed women scientists as speakers and has held chapter meetings since 2007/2008. The chapter has been working with Toledo Public Schools and other area schools to bring female high school students to UT for the day (Girls in Science) to introduce them to various STEMM opportunities that exist for them. It has also been working with the Women Chemist’s Committee of the Toledo Section of the
American Chemical Society (WCC) to spread the word to women working in industry and at other schools throughout the region.

Upcoming events:
   Girls in Science, tentatively scheduled for March 2012;
   Spring meeting, with fundraiser;
   Satellite meetings at the various colleges and on HSC to bring the meeting to the member.

• What can AWIS do for you?
AWIS is an advocacy organization, not a professional organization. It is about mentoring and support of women in the sciences. The power of AWIS is its network. By meeting others in different areas as well as your own, you can expand your horizons and advance your own goals.
   MentorNet – AWIS members have access to this as part of their membership. You should have a mentor both within and outside of your current campus. Many of us have mentors at the same time that we are mentors for others. A mentor is not necessarily someone in your field – it is someone who has similar life and possibly career experiences.

• What should AWIS be doing for you?
The question asked of the audience: what should our chapter be doing for you?
Answers from the audience:
   Assistance with professional development opportunities
   Checklist/flowchart for common student issues, such as applying for graduate school, choosing an advisor.
   Build personal/cultural networks with other women and how to transition from a foreign culture to the US way of life, both personally and professionally.
   Planning your next step – does career, family and/or travel planning coincide or conflict? Work, Life, Satisfaction evaluation and application to your circumstances. What works for you is unique to you as each of us make different choices about the priorities in our lives.

• Recognitions and Prizes
Gift cards were presented to two of the students that were present at the meeting as well as to two faculty members who had brought a friend.
We now have an e-mail address specifically for our AWIS chapter.

Share good things that are going on in your life: (all of the following was interrupted multiple times by laughter and good wishes)

I am happy to have made it through this last year with a ten year old son and an almost one year daughter.
My friend’s daughter has undergone bone replacement therapy instead of having her leg amputated.
I have two grants which I haven’t had for a long time.
I finally figured out how to manage work, exercise and family and I have lost two pounds.
My husband is wrapping up his PhD thesis.
I will be graduating soon.
My compound is finally ready to isolate.
I have an almost three year old and we have survived and I have just scheduled my last semester of classes.
I will be submitting my first paper that I have done by myself.
I was supposed to be at my brother’s wedding but instead I was here working in lab. 😄
I joined ToastMasters and I earned the Half–Competent Competitor Award.
I am taking an education course and learning how to teach with online courses.
Tonight is the ribbon-cutting of the Ritter Planetarium. It is so cool! It is the first installation of this one in the country. Oct. 29th is open to the public at large, after that you have to pay.
I repaired a furnace just in time for winter. It was just a blown fuse – I saved $80 for the visit.
I have survived the first half of my first semester of teaching. I have almost completed my graduate studies and will get a new job and I have a two year old son.
I just finished my first application for a job in spring with Oak Ridge National Laboratories.
In ten and a half months you will have to get used to my new name.
I bought an iPad for my non–techno parents.

Announcements:
The Rain Garden Initiative of Toledo is working with the Sierra Club and will have interesting opportunities for students next year. Stay tuned for more information at a later date.

National Chemistry Week is at Imagination Station in downtown Toledo from Nov. 8–12. We need volunteers, including graduate students and faculty as well as undergraduate students.

• Social Hour
  Apple cider, coffee and juice were enjoyed by all while nibbling on the wonderful cupcakes from Cake-In-A-Cup and/or fresh veggies and dip. Many thanks to all who brought beverages and/or food for the meeting!