NWiS was present at the Women’s March and Science March

Crowds gathered in DC and around the world to support science and women rights in two historical rallies.

On January 21, 2017, masses gathered in the Women’s March to advocate legislation regarding women’s rights, immigration reform, healthcare and other human right issues. On Earth Day, April 22, 2017 the March for Science took place in Washington, D.C., and more than 600 other cities across the world. The goal of this march was to highlight the role of science for our health, economies, food security, and safety. Members of NWiS joined the marches to support women issues both in our society and within STEM fields and to defend the role of science in policy and society.

NWiS member becomes Assistant Professor at SDSU

Erica Forsberg will be starting a new mass spectrometry and microbiome research facility as well as teaching undergraduate analytical chemistry, general chemistry courses, and a graduate level mass spectrometry course. Her research group will be focusing on metabolomics of gut microbiota concentrating on the effects of diet, drugs and supplements on the gut-brain axis.
International Women’s Day

In celebration of International Women’s Day, NWiS and the International Services Office (ISO) co-hosted a discussion to highlight and honor the important contributions of the international women at TSRI.

TSRI has an international student and scholar population that is constantly changing. Currently, TSRI has 552 international students and scholars in California and Florida, 194 of which are women (17% are enrolled graduate students, 57% are Research Associates and 26% are External Graduate Students, Interns, Research Assistants, and Staff Scientists).

On March 8th, NWiS together with ISO organized an International Women day’s discussion. One of the key topics of discussion were role models. Although the women at TSRI come from many different cultures, they all seemed to share a common theme: while there are very few female role models in science (Marie Curie being noted as an important exception), almost all the women gathered agreed that their mothers had been their role models and in some way, had encouraged them to follow their dreams in science. Very few of the women gathered had had a teacher, mentor or professor who was a female scientist and who could have been considered a role model. However, there is no doubt that the international women at TSRI today will play an important role in the years to come, in becoming the role models for the next generation of young women interested in science.

Margaret Hellwarth, International Services Manager. NWiS member.

“Most women agreed that their mothers had been their main role models”
Female Faculty Series

At the most recent installment of our Female Faculty Lecture Series, NWiS was pleased to present the first ever female faculty from outside of TSRI. Professor Nancy Caine gave a special lecture on April 12th. Her talk entitled “The Role of Role Models: a Female Scientist’s Personal Account” discussed the importance of role models for female scientists. The discussion focused on role models Dr. Caine had during her life, ranging from Nancy Drew to baseball announcer Vin Scully and how these role models helped shape her personality, scientific interests and career. The lecture finished with a discussion followed by coffee and dinner.

In November 2016, we had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Jeanne Lorring from the Department of Developmental Neurobiology at TSRI. Dr. Lorring discussed her journey from small-town life to critically-acclaimed neuroscience researcher. She described her seminal contributions to the promising use of stem cells to treat neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s and Multiple Sclerosis.

Monthly Coffee Hours

For November’s Coffee Hour, NWiS screened “Miss Representation”, a film that explores the under-representation of women in positions of power and challenges the media’s limited portrayal of what it means to be a powerful woman.

January’s Coffee Hour featured a trip to Reading Cinemas in Clairemont. The movie tells the story of three brilliant African-American women working at NASA, who served as the brains behind the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit.

May’s Coffee Hour featured a discussion on the film “The Mask You Live In,” which examines our culture’s interpretation of masculinity and the effect it has on young boys.

Our Mission Statement

TSRI’s Network for Women in Science strives to provide and encourage visibility, leadership, and community for female scientists; and to raise awareness for and promote change related to female representation in STEM-related education and careers.
Scripps Florida’s NWiS Welcomes Max Planck Florida to Group

The Network for Women in Science Florida (NWiS) welcomed Max Planck Florida’s students and employees to form the Scripps and Max Planck Network for Women in Science. “We currently have more than 60 members and expect to increase this number to 100 after the merger,” said Sany Hoxha, current chair of the group and graduate student in the Kissil laboratory. “We saw this merger as the perfect opportunity to reach a larger audience and work with diversified members.”

The mission will remain the same: to help train female scientists to operate at their full potential. “We want to build on the sense of community among the women at Scripps Florida and Max Planck to create a place to discuss women’s issues such as balancing career and family—and selecting a career path,” Hoxha said.

The first joint meeting with Max Planck was held on March 15, 2017.

HR and NWiS join forces to improve benefits for female TSRI employees

Jennifer Crosby-Meurisse, the new VP of Human Resources for both TSRI California and Florida campuses joins NWiS efforts to promote and improve benefits for female TSRI employees. Our current focus is to more clearly define and improve parental leave policies for TSRI post-docs and graduate students.