

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON WOMEN IN GRADUATE SCIENCES

Inspiring | Supporting | Mentoring

Our Mission

The Women in Graduate Science (UOWGS) organization at the University of Oregon focuses on the professional development of women in all disciplines of science to enable them to become successful contributors to their fields.

2018-2019 Officers

President:

Michelle Sconce Massaquoi

Treasurer:

Kira Egelhofer

Social Chair:

Dana Reuter

Seminar Chair:

Terri Lovell

Outreach Co-Chair:

Sarah Stednitz

Outreach Co-Chair:

Emily Sales

Public & Alumni Relations

Chair:

Kathryn Denning

Undergraduate Mentorship

Chair:

Carolyn Levinn

Fundraising Chair:

Maria Bañuelos

Webmaster:

Chris Funch

Recorder Chair:

Krystal Oon



Welcome to our 2018 – 2019 Board!

Back, left to right: Dana Reuter, Michelle Sconce Massaquoi, Emily Sales, Sarah Stednitz, Krystal Oon, Kathryn Denning

Front, left to right: Maria Bañuelos, Kira Egelhofer, Chris Funch, Carolyn Levinn, Terri Lovell

Message from our President:

Dear UOWGS members, alumni, donors, and friends,

My name is Michelle Sconce Massaquoi and I am this year's incoming 2018-2019 President for the University of Oregon Women of Graduate Sciences. Following this past year's achievements we are galvanized, as the new UOWGS board, to further our goals of helping women and gender minorities in all STEM disciplines become successful contributors to their respective fields. This will be my third year on the UOWGS board and I am looking forward to continuing to serve as an officer toward our mission of gender equality in the sciences.



Michelle Sconce
Massaquoi

UOWGS President

It has been an inspiration to watch UOWGS grow as an organization and as president, I hope to expand our involvement on campus to be a positive change-maker within our community and not only reach out to other developing graduate organizations but also create opportunities for members to learn about entrepreneurship, creative thinking and innovation in the sciences.

Thank you to all of our wonderful members, our generous donors, our amazing alumni, and everyone who has attended our events. We would not be here without your support and we look forward to seeing you this next year!

Thank you,
Michelle

2018 UOWGS Winter Fundraiser



*Above: Astronaut Lawrence shares her experiences working at the International Space Station
Right: Guests bid on baskets donated for the silent auction.*

The Fourth Annual WGS Fundraiser in March was a great success thanks to keynote speaker Astronaut Wendy Lawrence, our many guests, and generous donations from campus organizations and businesses in the community. We were thrilled to have so many WGS supporters in attendance, in addition to UO President Michael Schill, who gave opening remarks. Astronaut Lawrence gave an inspiring talk about her experience at the International Space Station and about the science conducted in the laboratories onboard. We are pleased to have raised over \$10,000, which will help fund our various programs, including Outreach, Seminars and Workshops, Undergraduate Mentorship, and more. We would like to thank everyone who attended and donated; we are so grateful for your support.



Left: President Schill gives opening remarks.

Bottom Left: Guests enjoyed a catered dinner at tables decorated after famous women scientists.

Bottom Right: Astronaut Lawrence, members of the fundraiser committee, and members of WGS board.



Special Thanks to Our Local Sponsors

Astronaut Wendy Lawrence, President Schill and the President’s Office, Center on Diversity and Community (CoDAC) at the Division of Equity and Inclusion (DEI), College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Office, College of Education, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Ann Greenfield and Matt Hutter at University Advancement, and Jenny Soghor at the Alumni Association.

Outreach Events

Spring and Summer 2018 were busy for WGS outreach! Through April and May we hosted a six week STEM after-school workshop at **Ophelia's Place** called the **Super Science Society**. These hour-long workshops focused on hypothesis testing and creativity. With girls ages 10-14 from six different schools, we experimented with balloon rockets, density columns, coloring robots, different kinds of fossils, and liquid nitrogen ice cream. This was the second year of a successful partnership with Ophelia's Place.



Our efforts to spread science around the Eugene-Springfield community led us to host two field trips. For the first we took ten volunteers to **Bertha-Holt Elementary School's** 5th grade classes. The students moved from class-to-class building their knowledge about material properties and hypothesis testing by rotating through experiment stations related to energy and states of matter - one of the 5th grade NGSS topics. During the two-hour field trip, students made homemade lava lamps, played with the non-newtonian liquid "Oobleck", created clouds in repurposed soda bottles, and enjoyed learning about solid CO₂ (dry ice) and liquid nitrogen. In August, we hosted summer campers from **Eugene Parks & Rec's Build-and-Destroy Camp**. Campers trekked to campus where they learned how building structures and bridges are impacted by earthquakes, and how to better engineer the structures. The campers, led by WGS volunteers, built their own mini cities on shake tables to see how their structures withstood simulated earthquakes. They ended the day learning about aerodynamics with paper airplanes.



We were also happy to host the 5th **Summer Academy to Inspire Learning (SAIL) Chemistry Camp** for a full week of in-depth chemistry experiments. The week kicked-off with fire and big bangs during a Chem Demo, where University President Shill joined us to learn about properties of elements by lighting a hydrogen balloon on fire. On Tuesday, the campers started their day processing a "crime scene" by working as a team to collect evidence. Each day the students processed different pieces of evidence with a variety of experiments, including chromatography, blood drop analysis, powder/elemental analysis, fingerprinting, and more. They worked together to eliminate suspects as the week progressed and the week culminated with two "arrests". This Chemistry Camp has been run as the only non-faculty produced program in SAIL for the past 5 years. This year we have worked with the Department of Chemistry to find a faculty

member to permanently take over the SAIL program in the future. We are excited to announce that Prof. Amanda Cook will be facilitating the SAIL Chemistry Camp next year and look forward to see how she will make Chemistry SAIL Camp even better!

Outside of our typical K-12 events, we were proud to bring back the WGS **Science Slam!** this past spring after a two year hiatus. This fun community event was hosted in April at Claim 52 Kitchen, and featured Dr. M Jackson, PhD, whose keynote focused on people's relationship with glaciers. This was followed by five minute selected science performances. We heard poetry about evolution, a talk about optimism and coral reefs, a children's book about astrology, why the color purple isn't real, and more! The audience then voted for their favorite talks. Thank you to the **Museum of Natural and Cultural History** for supporting the event and providing the prizes for our speaker winners.

As WGS outreach prepares for a new academic year, we want to welcome our two new outreach co-chairs Sarah Stednitz and Emily Sales. As the outgoing outreach co-chairs we want to thank our everyone for their hard work and commitment, including over two dozen WGS member volunteers! We had a fantastic year and are looking forward to seeing WGS continue to impact our community with fun science events!

Keep the curiosity going,
Lisa Eytel and Dana Reuter
2017-2018 Outreach Co-Chairs



Interested in Volunteering? Contact us at: uowgs@uoregon.edu

10th Annual Generations Luncheon

The Generations Luncheon is an amazing event that provides a unique opportunity for women in STEM disciplines to meet and share their experiences with the future generation of female scientists. Women at every level of the science career ladder were in attendance including professional and academic scientists, graduate students, undergraduate science majors, and high school students. This year we expanded in the number of fields that were represented at the luncheon where aspiring high school scientists could meet women in chemistry, biology, geology, neuroscience, human physiology, mathematics and physics. The luncheon culminated with the keynote speaker, World Championships Gold Medalist & Coach Cathie Twomey Bellamy who shared her inspiring story of being a professional athlete during the Title IX era of women in sports.



Pictured above: Photo from the generations luncheon, where attendees included faculty, post docs, grad students, undergrads, and high school students.

JUMP! and Other Undergraduate Opportunities

JUMP!, the Joint Undergraduate-Graduate Mentorship Program is about to kick off its fourth year at the University of Oregon! JUMP! connects undergraduate science majors with graduate mentors to help them navigate the challenges of preparing for a future in STEM. This year we are working closely with the UO Master's Industrial Internship Program to incorporate more professional development workshops, such as resume and cover letter formatting, networking, interview skills, and much more! We are excited to be able to bring both academic and industrial perspectives to the program!

The 6th annual Undergraduate Career Forum is also rapidly approaching! On October 31st, we will be hosting a panel discussion with current graduate students of all areas of science, as well as an open discussion session with career scientists. This event is open to undergraduate and post-baccs of all majors and years, with a focus on those in STEM fields, and will discuss the next steps for students after earning a bachelor's degree in science. Contact us if you're interested in participating!



Above: Undergraduate students in STEM learn about career options at the 4th annual Undergraduate Career Forum.

Welcome to Our Incoming JUMP! Board Members:

Carolyn Levinn (Undergraduate Mentorship Chair), **Kathryn Denning** (WGS Public Relations & Alumni Chair) and **Michelle Sconce Massaquoi** (WGS President).

UOWGS Seminar & Workshop Series

Our mission is to host seminars and workshops that promote women in STEM and give insight into various careers. Our seminar series aims to provide information about different career paths, highlight the successes of female professionals, and bring to light to issues that women may face during their careers. Our workshops teach professionalism and provide networking opportunities to graduate students. UOWGS thanks all 2017-2018 seminar and workshop speakers!



Fall Seminar: October 26th, 2017

Dr. Boyana Konforti is the Director of Scientific Strategy Development at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Boyana gave a seminar on science communication and bringing science literacy to the community. She hosted a Q&A session about her career path and her experiences as a woman in science.



Winter Workshop: Feb. 15th, 2018

Maker Cart workshop with the University Innovations Fellows. We hosted a workshop to help guide people to communicate their science through art. Students from a variety of scientific disciplines attended and used their projects to explain their science to other attendees.



Winter Seminar: March 16th, 2018

Astronaut Wendy Lawrence is a retired NASA Astronaut who completed four space shuttle flights. She is also a US Navy helicopter pilot and she was a member of the second class to graduate women from the Naval academy. She gave a talk about science in space.

UO Alda Affiliate Team

Spring Workshops: March 20th and April 24th, 2018

Zeina Salame, a theater graduate student and Fellow of the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science hosted two workshops on communicating research with the general public.



Upcoming Fall 2018 Seminars

A special Postdoctoral seminar showcasing research happening within the University of Oregon. This seminar will feature Dr. Kate Walsh (Biologist in the Zemper lab), Dr. Jessica Lohrman (Chemist in the Darren Johnson lab), and Dr. Judit Pungor (Neuroscientist in the Niell lab).

UOWGS donor support makes these seminars possible! Please contact us if you'd like to help fund our seminar series *or* if you have suggestions for future seminar speakers or topics.

2017-2018 Social Events

Fall

Happy hour at
Ninkasi

We participated in 'pints for a cause' in which \$1 of every pint went to Ophelia's Place, a support group for girls in Eugene.

Winter

Happy hour for
Trivia at the Oregon
Wine Lab

Spring

Science Slam! at
Claim 52 Kitchen on
Willamette St.

Audience enjoyed an evening of science talks at newly-opened Claim 52 Kitchen!

Bowling Fundraiser
and Happy Hour at
Emerald Lanes

Summer

Generations Luncheon
Women at every level of the science career ladder, from high schoolers to professors, enjoyed lunch and an inspirational talk by Coach Cathie Twomey Bellamy.

Member's Celebration
at Sarver

2017-2018 Members Celebration

For the 10th Annual UOWGS Member's Celebration we returned to Sarver Winery in Eugene to commemorate a wonderful year of outreach, fundraising, seminars, networking and professional development for women and gender minorities in STEM. We said 'thank you' to the out-going board members and welcomed the new officers. This year's event among the rolling countryside and warm evening air with local wine and pizza, created an intimate atmosphere to reminisce over the memories made from the year and celebrate the new friendships created.



Above: Everyone enjoyed a chance to relax, chat, and enjoy the scenery.

Check out the Oregon Quarterly article UO WGS was featured in!

<https://around.uoregon.edu/oq/perfect-chemistry>

2017-2018 Scholarship winners!

Graduate Awards

Karfilis Leadership Award – Kara Zappitelli
Travel Awards – Jessica Stone and Michelle Sconce Massaquoi
Parenting Award – Janelle Stevenson

Undergraduate Awards

Summer Research Awards – Zeeya Aspandiar and Nikki Szczepanski

Checkout the "Awards" tab at uowgs.com for more about the winners!

Connect with us online!

 Twitter: [@uowgs](https://twitter.com/uowgs)

Website: blogs.uoregon.edu/uowgs  LinkedIn Group: [UOWGS](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/11111111)

Email: uowgs@uoregon.edu

 Facebook: facebook.com/uowgs

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