

WIS contributes much to SLAC community

IN JANUARY 1991 the co-founders of the Women's Interchange at SLAC (WIS) did not know how far-reaching their efforts to involve the SLAC community would be. At that time Janet Dixon, a manager in the Telecommunications department, and Valerie Phillips, Travel manager, simply planned to gather a group of people for the purpose of discussing issues of importance to women.

From that initial meeting WIS has evolved into an unofficial but effective voice for SLAC women in particular and SLAC employees in general. WIS is unofficial in that it has no elected officers, no dues, and no by-laws. It receives no funding from its members or from SLAC management. Yet in its short existence it has consistently organized a monthly public seminar and a monthly planning meeting. Both meetings are open to anyone in the SLAC community and are held during the lunch hour. Anyone who wishes to may attend the WIS planning meetings, held the second Wednesday of each month. The time and location of the meetings is announced in the news-group WIS-L.

For the seminars, WIS calls on experts at SLAC, from Stanford, and from the community at large. A seminar on the World Wide Web



(held in 1993 before the Web became a household word), conducted by Louise Addis, SLAC's former librarian, drew a large crowd of over 70 participants. An even greater number of people attended a lecture by Susan Faludi, well-known feminist and a Knight Fellow at Stanford at the time.

Seminars on child care sponsored by WIS have had far-reaching effects: a parents' group and a task force were formed to study the issue of on-site child care. Survey results showed that on-site child care was needed, however, SLAC is not financially able to provide such a facility at present.

A major contribution to the SLAC community is the annual Take Our Daughters To Work Day. This event was initiated through the determination of Evelyn Eldridge-Diaz who wanted

also the founder and first editor of the *International Accelerator Radiological Protection Electronic Newsletter*, and has a number of publications in scientific journals. She is currently participating in a research project to develop a low energy x-ray dosimeter.

Nisy lives with her husband, David, who is a biostatistician at Roche Bioscience in Redwood City.

her two daughters to have a chance to explore non-traditional careers. Through Diaz's persistence, large groups of volunteers from SLAC cooperated to host successful Daughters Day events in 1994 and 1995.

WIS seminars are sometimes technical in nature; for example, Professor Pat Burchat spoke about the Standard Model of Particle Physics. On another occasion the topic was the impact of domestic violence on the workplace. Myra Strober, a Stanford faculty member, spoke on feminist economics.

WIS founder Dixon put it this way, "I think WIS has introduced not only a wide variety of topics of current interest, but also brought up topics that are cutting edge. We think that it is important to notice these emergent issues and give them a larger forum in which to be aired." When asked about the future of WIS, co-founder Phillips said, "Regardless of gender, there are issues which we need to talk about as concerned and literate citizens. I hope that WIS continues to provide that opportunity."

If you have a topic you would like to see addressed in the WIS seminars, contact Cherrill Spencer at MS 12 or send e-mail to cherrill@slac.stanford.edu.

—P.A. Moore

Promotions *Continued from page 1*
Society. She recently spent six months at Argonne National Lab helping to design shielding for the Advanced Photon Source Synchrotron Radiation beam lines.

She formed and chaired a committee of DOE contractors to address concerns related to the implementation of the DOE Accelerator Safety Order. She was

In her spare time she enjoys walking and working out in the gym. She also bakes and teaches Sunday school. When asked where she gets her motivation, Nisy replies that she has always taken her philosophy from Ecclesiastes 9:10: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might."

—Gene Holden