

# AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

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## Washington Wire

Edited by Rachel Britt

Issue II August 2016



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Dear Lauren,

Dorian Russell joined the AWIS team in January as a policy intern while an undergraduate at American University. A native of Portland, Oregon, she moved across the country for the many opportunities in D.C. to pursue policy work.

Dorian's internship experiences will have a lasting impact - for her and for many other women in science. Through this experience, she

- worked closely with AWIS Director of Research and Analysis on primary data analysis to reveal differing rates of STEM degree attainment by race and gender, variations in reasons cited for leaving the STEM workforce, and disparities in salary and workforce status;
- represented AWIS on Capitol Hill, networking and setting up meetings with key Congressional staff and committee members, co-planning Congressional

## Member Profile

**Lauren Dembeck**

**Member Type:**

**Junior**

**Member Expiration:**

**8/26/17**

## Featured Jobs

**The Thomas G. Siccama Lecturer in Environmental Field Studies at Yale University**

Yale University  
New Haven, CT

**Molecular Geneticist Tenure -Track Faculty Position**

briefings, crafting policy documents, and providing research-based suggestions for action;

- facilitated AWIS Talent and Leadership Development Webinars, represented AWIS at conferences and events, and engaged chapter leaders in policy initiatives.

"I know this internship is not only having an effect on my own career development, but potentially for women across the country through legislative action. Recently I've been promoting better data collection and implicit bias training for agencies providing research grants."

Dorian plans to continue her education at American University, to earn a PhD in conservation biology and continue her field skills development. "My research in conservation has thus far taken me to untouched rainforest in Nicaragua, and later this year, I'll travel to Namibia and South Africa. I hope someday AWIS will call me to advance their "Smart Women Doing Cool Stuff" campaign so I can pay forward the influence I gained from AWIS to other young women."

Dorian is the first in her family to formally graduate high school and pursue a STEM career.

Her success is a testimony to the success of AWIS's internship program. When you engage with AWIS, you become a force for empowering the current and next generation of women in STEM, please [donate to the intern fund](#) today to continue to make these opportunities possible.

Sincerely,

Sheri Potter  
Director of Community and Stakeholder  
Engagement  
Association for Women in Science

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## Careers

Contributed by Sophia Jeon & Mrinalini Muralidharan

### Say No to This Bad Career Advice and Keep Your Bling On

Early this month, Bruce Hurwitz, an executive recruiter, wrote an article on LinkedIn suggesting women leave their engagement rings at home on an interview day if they want to get hired. His reasoning was that a big rock can make men think a woman is high-maintenance and may also intimidate other women. If your future co-workers care about that, maybe you do not want to work

Biology Department  
at Williams College  
Williamstown, MA

### **Experimental Physicist** **- Superconducting** **Quantum Processors**

Rigetti Quantum  
Computing  
Berkeley, CA

[\*\*Click here to visit the AWIS Career Center!\*\*](#)

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## AWIS Member Spotlight



**Dorian Russell**

"As an AWIS member, I can affirmatively say that my time with AWIS has been the most valuable in propelling my drive to continue my STEM education, my confidence in seeking mentors and advocating for myself, and networking abilities. This position will undoubtedly influence my success in the next steps of my career."

Learn more about the benefits of starting or joining AWIS in your area on the [AWIS Chapters and Affiliates page](#).

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there. Let's just say no to this sexist advice and focus on more important things.

[No, thanks](#)

## **Moonlighting May Open More Doors and Help to Identify Your Passion**

Sheryl Sandberg says in her book "Lean In" that a career should be more like a jungle gym than a ladder. Rather than taking one straight path, following your passion and taking on different challenges can help you grow and find opportunities in unexpected places. Don't wait until your current job is winding down to explore other career options. Moonlighting may be good for you if you are ready to take on some serious multi-tasking.

[Career explorers](#)

## **Internship Programs to Help Reenter the Workforce**

Tech companies have been trying various methods to increase and retain women in the workforce such as scholarships, parental leave perks, paying to freeze eggs, etc. Now many companies are offering paid internships to help mid-career women (or men), who have taken a break transition back into the workforce.

[Returnsips](#)

## **Why Do Women with Engineering Degrees Leave the Field?**

Education reforms in STEM fields may be enticing more women to study engineering, but they aren't doing a good job retaining women in the profession. Almost 40% of female engineering graduates either leave the field before getting a job, or quit shortly thereafter. Susan Silbey, a sociology professor at MIT, did a longitudinal study to follow 700 female and male engineering students for over a decade and found that women leave engineering mainly due to male-dominated cultures in school and workplaces.



[Issues beyond education](#)

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## **Education**

Contributed by Lauren M. Dembeck & Sophia Jeon

## **Marvel to Unveil Comics with STEAM-Themed Covers**



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Brighter Future*

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**Join the Conversation!**



Marvel characters often have strong ties with science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM). The comic book giant Marvel, is trying to inspire readers' interests in STEAM learning with the release of new cover variations. Covers available for viewing include female characters such as Ironheart for engineering and the Unbelievable Gwenpool for math.

[Comics build up STEAM](#)

## **National Parks Service Celebrates 100 Years of Research and Education**

At the centennial of the National Parks Service, the parks are being celebrated for their beauty, recreational activities, and scientific and educational value. The 59 National Parks have been critical havens for scientific research on topics including glacial retreat, wildfires, and wildlife. Currently, much of the scientific effort is put into studying how climate change affects more pristine "reference" ecosystems over time and chronicling the demise of some of the species the parks were put in place to protect.

[U.S. National Parks](#)

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## **Science, Technology, & Health**

Contributed by Michelle Gomes & Lauren M. Dembeck

### **Gene Test Could Reduce Chemo Treatment for Breast Cancer**

Like most cancers, breast cancer responds best to treatment when detected early. Treatment often involves chemotherapy, even when it's not clear chemo will increase a patient's chance of survival. With a major study using a genetic test called MammaPrint, researchers hope to reduce overtreatment. The test, which measures activity of genes involved in tumors, found that nearly half of early-stage breast cancer patients could avoid chemo, with little risk of recurrence or spread in five years.

[Testing before treating](#)

### **Enhanced IVM an Alternative Infertility Treatment**

For couples confronted with infertility, in-vitro fertilization (IVF) has often been the method of choice due to its higher rate of pregnancy than in-vitro maturation (IVM). Recently, scientists improved the rates of IVM using a combination of

growth factors and signaling molecules that enhanced egg quality and yield with minimal drugs. This enhanced IVM treatment, if proven safe, would be a less invasive and cheaper alternative to IVF.

[IVF alternative](#)

## **"RearVision" Backup Camera and App**

Having problems backing up or parallel parking? Pearl Automations new wireless camera called RearVision could help. This new backup camera consists of a license plate frame powered by solar energy that streams videos to an App on your smart phone via WiFi or Bluetooth. Since it uses your phone as the display, it allows you to upgrade your car's existing safety features.

[Improving hindsight](#)

## **Virtual Peer Pressure Encourages More Citizen Scientist Participation**

A research team from New York University's Tandon School of Engineering tested if virtual peer pressure could encourage more participation from citizen scientists. The study was conducted with participants of the Brooklyn Atlantis project, an NSF-funded study of robotic patrol boats. The study found that citizen scientists who performed the best tended to be part of a test group coupled with virtual competitors who consistently outperformed them. The study demonstrates the value of coupling social psychology research with citizen science.

[Positive peer pressure](#)

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## **Work-Life Integration**

Contributed by Mrinalini Muralidharan

### **Long Weekends Save the World**

We eagerly look forward to long weekends - an extra day to decompress from work stress, more time for family, friends, and fun. What if they were to become the norm? The benefits of a four-day work week could extend beyond leisure to make an impact on climate change by reducing greenhouse gases and energy consumption.

[Four-day work week](#)

### **No One Can Have It All**

Anne-Marie Slaughter became a household name in 2012 with her article "Why Women Still Can't Have It All." In a current interview, and in her new

book, Slaughter shares how her perspective on caregiving and work-life balance has evolved from being only a women's issue to one affecting men too. Gender equality can only be achieved when caregiving is valued on the same pay-scale as other work.

[Unfinished business](#)

### **Need balance? Create an Action Plan**

We can often feel overwhelmed with the number of tasks we have to accomplish as we balance priorities at home and at work. This article talks about the importance of being organized, while maintaining enough flexibility to capitalize on emerging professional and personal opportunities. Most importantly, the article deals with identifying "time-sucking" activities that monopolize our schedule.

[Be organized](#)

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## **Opportunities**

### **Partner Discount for AWIS for TechConneXt Summit**

AWIS members are invited to attend the TechConneXt Summit October 10-11 in Burlingame, CA at a discounted rate. Use discount code AWIS16 to save \$50 off the full registration price of \$195. In addition, if you register by September 9th, they will have access to Reserved Seating closer to the front of the main session room.

[Click here to register today!](#)

### **Sept. 6 Deadlines to Apply for NCATS Funding Opportunities is Coming Up!**

This is a reminder that the [National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences](#) (NCATS) has several open [Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\) and Small Business Technology Transfer \(STTR\)](#) program funding opportunities designed to help advance and commercialize translational research technologies. NCATS encourages applications in these four research areas of interest: drug discovery and development, diagnostics and devices, bioinformatics and information technology, and clinical research.

Learn more about current funding opportunities for small business at [NCATS Small Business](#), including [eligibility](#) requirements and [research priorities](#). Need help? Contact [NCATS SBIR and STTR](#) to discuss your project idea.



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