



Duke Society for Women in Science Annual Report 2023-2024



With funding from the Office of Faculty Advancement and support from the Rhodes Information Initiative, the SWS hosted 6 broad-audience seminars during the academic year, each paired with a delicious catered lunch. We specifically maintain this space for marginalized genders to connect and foster community, including (but not limited to) women, non-binary, two-spirit, and/or transgender scientists at Duke at all career stages and across scientific disciplines. This year, we chose speakers who represented a variety of academic career stages and positions, including the Dean of Natural Sciences, full, associate, and assistant professors, and professor of the practice:

Sept 22, 2023	Kickoff with special guest Dean Susan Alberts
Oct 20, 2023	Dr. Amy Herring gave the Louise M. Ryan Lecture in Statistical Science and Biostatistics & Bioinformatics
Nov 17, 2023	Dr. Veronica Ciocanel gave the Leah Edelstein-Keshet Lecture in Math
Jan 26, 2024	Dr. Emily Derbyshire gave the Carolyn Bertozzi Lecture in Chemistry
Feb 23, 2024	Dr. Kate Scholberg gave the Chien-Shiung Wu Lecture in Physics
Mar 22, 2024	Dr. Nina Sherwood gave the Grace (Wen-Jing) Tang Lecture in Biology



We took a new approach to advertising our seminar series this academic year; in addition to emailing our current listserv, we posted flyers around campus that listed the dates and speakers for the year and a QR code that linked directly to the luncheon signup. Our flyers were posted in buildings in the Medical Center departments, Pratt and Trinity and all career stage scientists were invited. This advertising method increased our RSVPs by almost 50% over the previous academic year, with over 350 individuals responding. Our lunch attendance averaged 37, up 62% from the previous year (specifically, our attendance by date = 32, 39, 35, 37, 42 and 40). We will focus on our advertising efforts next year and hope to develop a Duke website that will

expand our sense of community and function as a more accessible way to sign up for lunches than the current listserv or flyers.

During our SWS gatherings, a conscience effort is made at building a sense of community and to create a historical 'web of science'. We invite the speakers to name their seminar in honor of a woman who has inspired them or been instrumental in their scientific journey and to spend time at the beginning of the seminar to talk about her and the role she played in their career. We encourage attendees to wear the provided name tags with their name and department affiliation, to chat with at least two new people from different departments before the seminar while enjoying the lunch and to stay to continue discussions after the seminar presentation. We have a stack of flyers for them to take back to their labs/offices/buildings to post to increase our reach following each seminar.



Co-organizers Fan Li, Janice Crawford and Kathy Peterson thank the OFA for their financial support of the 2023-2024 seminar series and the Rhodes Information Initiative for facilities and program support. We also thank the OFA and the Rhodes Information Initiative for the funding provided for the 2024-2025 seminar series. This upcoming academic year will be co-organized by Di Fang, Janice Crawford, and Kathy Peterson and due to our success in 2023-2024, we will increase the number of SWS seminars and lunches from 6 to 7. We are growing our community!!

