

AIS NEWS



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July-September 2008

2008/2009 WHAT TO EXPECT

Welcome new AIS members! After a slow summer networking season, AIS and CBSA events are back in full swing! The first AIS meeting of the 2008/2009 academic year had over thirty attendees. Several issues were addressed including an announcement of our new AIS president, Van Willis, a review of AIS events from 2007/2008, and what to expect in the upcoming year. AIS is proud to have survived and accomplished so much in its first year!

At the members meeting AIS Vice President, Eric Neeley, articulated the main concept around which AIS has been developed. He stressed that this organization is designed to connect students/post-

docs with the opportunities that will help advance their careers. Members need to take action by networking at advertised events, vocalizing which companies and speakers they want to meet, and e-mailing or filling out surveys describing the alternative careers they want researched!

Free events available to AIS members are listed on our website, as well as the Colorado BioScience Association's website: www.cobioscience.com.

Recurring events from last year include member meetings, company meet and greets, speakers, and many CBSA events: bio-breakfasts, biobeers, and various symposiums.

New opportunities available this year include: the BioWest career fair, "field trips" to companies, the alumni mentorship program, a new website, and a "buddy system" or online sign-up sheet for attending networking events. A special workshop that is only available this year entitled "Engineering Your Career" is being held at the Front Range Neuroscience Group (FRNG) annual meeting. (<http://frng.colostate.edu/>).

Whether you are just starting graduate school or ending years of a post-doc position, AIS offers ample opportunity for career exploration and networking, but it is up to you to get involved and utilize your AIS membership!

AIS STUDENT ROOM
INFORMATION ON
SCIENCE CAREERS
Ed-2 P28-2204

Upcoming Events:

Medical Device Symposium

Oct 06th , 1:00PM- 7PM
The Westin, Westminster

Job Fair

BioWest Conference
Nov 13th, 12:00PM-12AM
Grand Hyatt , Denver

**"Engineering Your
Career" Workshop**
Dec 8th, 10:30AM-12PM
Marriott, Fort Collins

GET INVOLVED!

AIS Treasurer

- ◆ Manage AIS accounts and act as financial liaison to the university
- ◆ Attend executive meetings monthly
- ◆ Unpaid position

Department Representative

- ◆ Attend quarterly board of directors meetings and act as liaison to department(s)
- ◆ Unpaid position

SAC Liaison

- ◆ Coordinate activities about career options for all departments at the student career community room
- ◆ Paid Position \$1500/year

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Bridging the gap between scientists and business

BIOBEERS NETWORKING: HOW AND WHY?

WRITTEN BY: NICOLE GUIMOND (AIS FOUNDER)

The most recent Biobeers was held at the Cruise Room inside LoDo's historic Oxford Hotel. This venue was much smaller than previous bars that have hosted Biobeers. The small space gave the illusion that all of Denver's life science community had turned out for the event. In reality, the attendance was half the normal size, maybe 30 people. Faye Doherty and I mingled with scientists from Gevo, university tech transfer office folks, a local man who is redesigning the face of artificial feet, and many other Biobeers regulars. One of the regulars I spoke with, Ted Hibbs, has recently found a job at Bonfils running a blood labs.

When I was president of the AIS club, I attended these networking events with a mission. I was looking for speakers, funding or

ideas. Now, I attend these events looking for the contacts I will need when I start looking for a job next year. I try to talk to everyone at least once and if there isn't a good reason to extend the conversation beyond 5 minutes (good reasons being: they can teach you something, hire you, or share your love of bird watching) then I excuse myself and hold out my hand to the next person in the room.

Though these networking events are not parties, they can be fun (you are drinking beer in a bar). However, people do not attend simply for social reasons. People turn out with the hopes of meeting individuals who may benefit them professionally. This concept is the norm for networking events. If there is no mutual professional need for one another,

the goal is to move on and meet someone else. Don't get me wrong it is okay to leave the event with a new mountain biking buddy's phone number, as well.

Networking is a fuzzy thing. You meet people who may or may not be of immediate benefit to your career. However, you have to interview everyone to determine where they might fit into your rolodex. This is a skill that can be refined through practice. One can never predict the direction a new contact can lead. I fully expect to find my next job through a person I have met at local networking events.

For more information:
<http://biobeers.blogspot.com>



The Alternatives in Science Club, which began in 2007, is a student-run organization based on the Fitzsimons campus of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. The organization is dedicated to career development for students, post-docs, and faculty of the University of Colorado. The goals of AIS are threefold. We hope to introduce interested members of the university to the potential science careers outside of academia. We also hope to educate research scientists about what skills they might need in order to excel outside the university and how to attain those skills. Finally, we intend to act as a liaison to connect talented scientists with the bioscience community.