This program, now in its fifth year, has continued to be very strong with commendable activities and participation. ACS Women in Chemistry (WiC) was founded to address the needs and concerns of women who have or are pursuing advanced degrees in chemistry and related fields. It provides a venue for women chemists to interact and the programs are designed to facilitate both professional and personal growth, to provide opportunities for network building, and to establish mentoring relationships. Members are primarily graduate students, postdocs, specialists, and faculty members in the MSU Department of Chemistry, but participants also include women from other departments, undergraduate students, and professional women from the community.

Although the mission of the group has remained the same, WiC continually sponsors new types of activities in a variety of formats. This year the goals were to provide members with networking opportunities in industry and academia, maintain a strong outreach program, and find ways to further increase participation in WiC activities. In an effort to strengthen our relationship with women in the industrial community and for women graduate students to obtain a perspective of what a career in industry is like, WiC invited recent graduates: Dr. Wendy Flory (Dow Chemical), Dr. Micah Stow (Clorox), and Mrs. Shawn Mehrens (Pfizer) to share their experiences in a round panel discussion. WiC also continued to facilitate networking opportunities through our “Meet the Speaker” program, where group members can chat informally with academic women visiting the department. WiC also supported events, which would be beneficial for all chemists, including a finance workshop given by Dr. Jim Wiggins, Ass. Prof. of Finance, Eli Broad College of Business, entitled “Investing for Dummies” and a nutrition workshop. WiC this year also focused on sponsoring activities, which would provide a supportive environment within the community and increase membership. These activities included an end of the semester (Spring 2001) potluck/BBQ at Dr. Kathryn Severin’s house for women in the department and our annual “kick-off meeting” for the Fall 2001 semester which was an ice cream social for the entire chemistry department to welcome incoming graduate students and new faculty at MSU. WiC continued to be actively involved in outreach activities. This year outreach activities included presentation of chemical demonstrations and hands-on activities at the St. Thomas Aquinas School science fair, Science Day at the Meridian Mall, and National Chemistry Week at Impression Five Science Museum in Lansing, MI. For this year’s theme “chemistry and art” we invited students from the MSU art department to display some of their work and join with us in the event. Participants, young and old, were able to learn about the chemistry of glazing in ceramics and in making a bronze sculpture. Along with the theme “chemistry and art” WiC had a luncheon with Karen Trentleman, who is a research scientist at the Detroit Institute of Arts to learn about alternative careers in chemistry.