

Dear fellow WID members:

This has been an extraordinary 26th year for WID! Highlights included a schedule of terrific programs that attracted a record number of members, culminating in the celebration of Dr. Vishakha N. Desai, President of The Asia Society, as WID's 2007 Woman of Achievement at our gala, sold-out luncheon at the Rainbow Room. We have never had a year with better attendance or a more active membership to serve—more than 700 women.

It simply could not have been done without the wonderful help of everyone who worked hard to make it happen. It is impossible to thank them all here, but I do want to say a special thank you to Poonam Prasad, 1st Vice President and Whitney Namm, 2nd Vice President for their invaluable counsel and able assistance.

This year's successes would not have been possible without the exhaustive behind-the-scenes contributions of my fellow Board members, and the leadership of the Executive Committee, Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs. For all their dedication and creativity, I am especially grateful. You truly made my first year as President of WID a pleasure—thank you!

Great appreciation and thanks go as well to each of our hard-working committee members. In addition, Fran Morris and Sharon Epstein of E/M Management are the glue that holds everything together. They go the extra mile to ensure the success of all our efforts.

As planning for the new program year is under way, I'd like to talk about leadership. The core of WID's mission is to "maintain a supportive and collegial network through which women in development and related fields can assist one another's professional growth." Leadership development is critical to fulfilling our mission, and mentorship is an effective method for developing personal and professional skills. We are fortunate in the amazing mentoring opportunities that exist among our diverse and outstanding group of professionals. Peer-to-peer mentoring goes on among our membership all the time, as well as the peer-to-protégé mentoring in which experienced and successful members generously share their knowledge and insights with those newer to the profession.

A mentor is a trusted counselor or guide, and successful mentoring is not a short-term thing. Unlike coaching, a mentoring relationship develops over time and can last for years, as two people develop the rapport, mutual respect and trust that push each of them to be the best they can be. At WID, the opportunity to take advantage of this age-old technique for advancement is unique. Our organization is a distinctive, woman-to-woman professional support system that can give each of us the skills to successfully meet the challenges that face us all.

WID continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of our members, and to address issues of concern to all of us. We must develop future leaders within our ranks to keep this momentum going.

Next year promises to be another extraordinary one. I can't wait!

With warmest regards for a wonderful summer,

Virginia H. Strull

**Asia Society President Honored at Annual Luncheon**



*Shelley Jane Grossberg, WID Board Member & Co-Chair Woman of Achievement Award Luncheon, Dr. Vishakha Desai, Honoree, Virginia Strull, President WID, New York  
 (more photos on page 3)*

**W**ID's 2007 Woman of Achievement Award honored Dr. Vishakha Desai, sixth president of the Asia Society, in a sold-out luncheon at the Rainbow Room.

Dr. Desai was selected for this award because of her extraordinary accomplishments in organizational leadership and her contributions to New York through her transformational work at Asia Society. After 13 years in various roles at the Society, she assumed her current post in 2004. She led Asia Society's 50th anniversary celebrations in 2006, broadening the organization's programs in policy, business, arts, culture and education. As a scholar of classical Indian art, she has built an international reputation for using contemporary and traditional Asian art to illustrate historical and cultural trends and their influence on current events. Dr. Desai has spoken extensively in the United States and Asia, and is often called upon to dissect cultural, social and policy trends and their implications for United States-Asian relationships in the media.

After a fond introduction by Gina Lin Chu, an Asia Society trustee, Dr. Desai took the floor to regale the crowd with as many definitions of "development" as she had been able to unearth. As six past recipients of the Woman of Achievement Award looked on, she pointed out that no single meaning completely described the critical and comprehensive job development professionals do. She spoke about her professional growth in similar terms, as an evolution in her own understanding that gradually brought together fields including business, culture, education and policy.

Dr. Desai stressed the growing and important role she expects Asia to play on the world stage in the near future, highlighting changes to which we have been witness in recent years. Luncheon attendee, Bertina Ceccarelli of United Way of New York City, saw immediate applications for this global perspective, saying, "Dr. Desai's inspiring work as a cultural bridge builder reminds us all of the importance of bringing donors closer to our cause. Shared vision is key to lasting change, and the more we can understand each other, the more we truly change the world together."

Poonam Prasad, WID's First Vice President, emphasized the ways in which Dr. Desai's work might inspire audience members. "Dr. Desai exemplifies WID's commitment to excellence in both leadership and development, and is a wonderful and challenging role model for our younger members," said Prasad. "I was also pleased to see our focus on diversity reflected in the luncheon's attendees, who came from organizations of every size and field, work in all five boroughs of the city, and include women of many cultural and ethnic backgrounds."

WID welcomes nominations from members for next year's award. If you know an inspirational woman in the field, please submit her name for consideration to [widny@widny.org](mailto:widny@widny.org).

# WID Career Advancement Program CALLING ALL MENTORS!

In WID's recent membership survey, the subject of career advancement was prominent among member's interests and needs. More than half cited career coaching as one of the most valuable aspects of their WID memberships and 87% felt that the opportunity to meet other professionals was the organization's greatest strength.

The development field is all about connections—with funders, donors, alumni—but often the most important connection you can make is with a peer—someone who can help you navigate the world of job searching and job satisfaction and pave the way to new opportunities for you.

WID's Career Advancement Committee makes these connections a reality for members who are seeking coaching and for those who want to share their expertise to mentor others. Both sides of the relationship benefit enormously.

We surveyed recent participants and found that they benefited from career advice, formed important personal relationships, expanded their list of worthwhile contacts and even found employment with their mentor. This from the coach who offered her coachee a position in her organization: "I am so very grateful that [she] entered my life, thanks to WID. She is an absolute joy to know and work with, both professionally and personally."

One former mentor stated that she enjoyed "building relationships with up-and-comers in the profession" and "meeting people that I might not meet otherwise."

And an endorsement from a coachee to the person who introduced her to the Career Advancement Program: "Thanks for starting a cascade of events that got me in a great professional environment."

How does one get involved in Career Advancement? All it takes is a commitment to one face-to-face meeting and a follow-up by phone or email with a fellow WID member who will be assigned to you. We also request that you report back to WID on your experience.

Another statistic—76% of our membership has been in the business for 5 years or more. What a resource for our junior members to tap! What connections are yet to be made!

If you are interested in participating in the Career Advancement program as a mentor or a coachee, please contact the WID Office at [widny@widny.org](mailto:widny@widny.org) or Bobbie Kraus at [bobbie\\_kraus@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbie_kraus@yahoo.com).



Empowering  
Women in Development  
New York

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[www.widny.org](http://www.widny.org)

# WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD LUNCHEON • 2007

WID's 2007 Woman of Achievement Award honored **Dr. Vishakha Desai**, sixth president of the Asia Society, in a sold-out luncheon at the Rainbow Room.



*Virginia Strull, WID President*



*Gina Chu, Asia Society Trustee and Dr. Vishakha Desai, 2007 WID Woman of Achievement Honoree*



*Sponsor, Elizabeth Lowell, Raybin Associates, Poonam Prasad, WID 1st Vice President*



*Gina Chu, Dr. Vishakha Desai and Virginia Strull*



*Dr. Vishakha Desai*



*A sold-out Award Luncheon, Rainbow Room*



*Standing: Arlene Swartz, WID Treasurer; Elizabeth Hicks, Former Woman of Achievement; Stephanie Thomas, WID Secretary; Sara Fagin, Former Woman of Achievement; Brenna Sheenan Mayer, WID Past President; Seated: Sara Melendez, Former Woman of Achievement; Susan T. Marx, WID Board Member; Renee Greene, WID Assistant Secretary; Roxanne Greenstein and Bobbie Kraus, WID Board Members.*



*Standing: Whitney Namm Pollack, WID 2nd Vice President, Shelley Jane Grossberg, Board Member; Lynn Gumpert, Nina Diefenbach, WID Board Member; Poonam Prasad, WID 1st Vice President, Emily Rafferty, Former Woman of Achievement. Seated: Dr. Swati Desai, Gina Chu, Virginia Strull, Vishakha Desai.*



*Sponsors, Kimberly Hawkins and Nancy Raybin, Raybin Associates, and Virginia Strull, WID President*



*Payal Chaudhri, Member of Asia Society President Circle, Irum Hassan-Khan, Citi Private Banking, Ida Liu, Member of Asia Society President Circle, Gina Chu, Asia Society Trustee.*



Empowering  
**Women in Development**  
 New York

## I TO I: A STRUCTURED NETWORKING EXPERIENCE

**Thursday, June 7, 2007 • 6:00 to 9:00 pm**

*The Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse at Lincoln Center, 165 West 65th Street, 10th Floor (between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue)*

WID's Special Programming Committee is unveiling a new way to network: exchanging views on career-related topics with your colleagues from organizations across the city. On Thursday, June 7th, join us at the Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse at Lincoln Center from 6 to 9 pm for I to I: A Structured Networking Experience.

We have more than 30 facilitators, experts in their fields, who will lead small roundtable discussions. Participants will choose the subjects on which they want to converse beforehand and will get to know their peers as they dig into topics like contract negotiation, the challenges of finding work/life balance, interview skills and positioning yourself for the job you really want. Everyone will participate in several of these conversations, giving each participant the opportunity to network with a different group each time. At the end of the structured sessions, there will be open time for informal networking.

Sign up on the website soon: [www.widny.org](http://www.widny.org). Space for this event is limited.

## CALLING ALL MEMBERS: SAVE THE DATE!

**Wednesday, July 11th**

### WID'S ANNUAL NETWORKING RECEPTION

5:30–6:00pm New Member Orientation  
 6:00–8:00pm Reception

NYU Kimmel Center  
 60 Washington Square South, 10th Floor

Spring is in the air, and that means that WID's Annual Networking Reception is right around the corner! If you're new to WID, this event is the perfect opportunity to get to know the organization and to meet and network with new colleagues. If you're already a WID member, this is your chance to greet old friends and introduce new ones to WID! This year's event will again be held at the NYU Kimmel Center, 60 Washington Square South, from 6–8pm; visit the WID website at [www.widny.org](http://www.widny.org) to register. Mark your calendars and register early for this popular event!

*This publication is generously underwritten by:*

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ByalaSearch LLC  
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