



## **WIB – The Next Chapter – “A Perfect Storm”**

As we update on the first half of 2013, I think it is only fitting to describe WIB 2013 as the perfect storm, at least to me, as I step down at the end of my 18 month term as President.

A "Perfect Storm" is an exciting event that includes thunder, electricity, activity and then the calm. I have been privileged to feel the excitement time and time again, not only as President, but over the past five years that I served in a leadership role within the organization. And now it is time for my calm.

WIB has been an enormous part of my life for the past 11 years and I will never be able to express my gratitude to all the women that have shaped my professional and personal life as much as the women I have met through WIB. My first introduction to WIB was back in 2002 when I attended a networking event in Washington, DC. After that event, I knew

I had to become involved and volunteer my time to give back to the up-and-coming women professionals entering the life sciences industry.

In the last couple of years, the footprint of the WIB leaders has illustrated what an organization is capable of when the right leader and talent come together to create an unstoppable force fueled by passion and enthusiasm. And the incredible trend continues with the current WIB leadership of powerful and dynamic women from across North America who are dedicated to helping other women achieve their full potential in their careers and ignite an interest in our younger generation to embrace what a career in science could give them as they choose a path in life. Because of our phenomenal leadership we have grown to 10 chapters, capturing the interest of more and more women who want to be a part of the WIB movement.



I could not be more pleased to hand the reins over to the ever-capable Simone Fishburn, PhD, who is officially President as of August 1, 2013. She has already taken WIB to a new level by adding powerful women industry leaders to our Board and appointing strong leaders in our National Committee roles.

Additionally, none of this could be accomplished without the leadership of our staff that is headed by Jamie Strachota, who plays a pivotal role in leading every aspect of WIB initiatives that continues to keep WIB growing.

On a last note, I am blessed to have met every one of you and will continue to stay in touch throughout the years. I am one of the lucky ones that got to actually live a part of that book that we dream of writing someday and those memories will last forever. Thank you for sharing you passion, dedication and all the wonderful memories and friendship that will last a lifetime.

Keep on writing new chapters for us all to be proud of.

*Cheers,*

**Phyl**