



Women in Science and Engineering Atlantic Region Newsletter



Winter 2014/Issue 6

The NSERC Atlantic Chair's program for Women in Science and Engineering aims to provide junior and senior high school girls access to role models active in the sciences and engineering fields through mentorships, webinars, science workshops and camps. We network with women in industry and academia, from science, engineering and technology disciplines at various stages in their careers.

WISEatlantic Upcoming Events

The Career Choices and Influencers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math: an analysis in the Maritime Provinces - We invite you to join us on **Thursday, January 23rd 2014, Seton Building, Room 404, The Mount** from **4:30pm-6:30pm** as we share the results of our recent research study. Copies of our Executive Summary Report will also be available, if you would like to receive it prior to the event, please let us know. RSVP by **January 16, 2014**.

Professional Development Workshop - Effective Communications

Communicating effectively in the workplace is an essential competency. Join us on **Thursday, March 6th 2014 at The Mount from 8:00am-4:30pm** for this WinSETT workshop. Registration is limited to 25 participants. In partnership with Digital Nova Scotia.

Role of Gender in Science Communication - Public Forum Discussion

Join us on **Thursday, March 6th 2014** to hear scientists, and science communicators discuss the role that gender plays in science communication. Keynote speakers are Mary Anne Moser, (Founder and Director, Science Communication Program, Banff Centre) and Kathryn O'hara (CTV Chair in Broadcast Journalism, Carleton University). The full list of panel members will be posted on our website. In partnership with Encana, the Discovery Centre and Hypatia Association.

Girls Get WISE Science Retreat for Guides - Saturday, **March 1st 2014 from 10:30am-3:15pm** at The Mount. In partnership with Girl Guides of Nova Scotia. To register email program@girlguides.ns.ca.

Girls Get WISE Science Retreat - Saturday, **May 17th 2014 from 10:30 am-3:15pm** at The Mount. Grades 7-12. Registration opens on January 6th 2014. Limited spaces available.

Girls Get WISE Science Summer Camp - **July 7-11th 2014** at The Mount. Registration opens on January 6th 2014. Grades 7 & 8. Limited spaces available.

WISEatlantic invites youth in grades 9-12 to judge undergraduate Biology posters at the **Science Atlantic Biology Undergraduate Conference for Honors Students** at The Mount on March 15th 2014 from 10:30am-2:00pm. Free pizza! Contact us for more info.

The Resource page of the WISEatlantic website lists science camps that run throughout Atlantic Canada, and helpful links for parents and teachers.



Teachers - 2014 Webinars:

January - Technology

February - Math

March - Engineering

*Speak to Role Models using
Online Collaborate Software*

*To sign-up your class, or to
volunteer as a role model, email
us today!*

Our Sponsors:



WISEatlantic Past Events

WISEatlantic met with **faculty and students at Acadia University and UPEI** to discuss supporting gender equity in STEM in September 2013.

Girls Get WISE Science Retreat for African Nova Scotian Youth was held on October 2nd 2013. Forty girls enjoyed hands-on activities including DNA extraction and learning about jobs from female role models in STEM. In partnership with the Halifax Regional School Board.

Professional Development Workshop - Negotiating for Success was held on October 11th 2013. Twenty-one women participated in this session which was offered by the WinSETT Centre and sponsored by WISEatlantic and Digital Nova Scotia.

School Counselors Symposium was held on October 24th 2013 at The Mount. WISEatlantic demonstrated interactive webinars to guidance counsellors from across Nova Scotia.

Dr. Franz-Odenaal spoke at the **Diversity in an Innovative Workplace workshop, October 20-23rd 2013** at the Canadian Chemical Engineering Conference in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Read the report on our website.

Dr. Franz-Odenaal gave a presentation to **Engineers PEI** participants at a lunch 'n learn session on November 4th 2013. Following the presentation, they discussed challenges facing women in engineering in break out sessions. You can read the report on our website.



Julie Payette, November 2013

3rd Gender Summit - North America

The 3rd North American Gender Summit took place from November 13-15th 2013 in Washington D.C. The theme of this year's gender summit was "Diversity Fueling Excellence in Research and Innovation".

The summit attracted over 600 participants and speakers from all over the world in a Call to Action to achieve positive change towards greater diversity in the STEM workforce. All five NSERC Chairs for Women in Science and Engineering were present at the Summit and were involved as speakers in various panel sessions. The CWSE's funded delegates from their respective regions to attend the Summit. WISEatlantic sponsored three individuals to attend.

Highlights from the week included an inspiring talk from Astronaut and Chief Operating Officer of the Montreal Science Centre, Julie Payette and a discussion about implicit gender bias from Dr. Brian Nosek, co-founder of Project Implicit (projectimplicit.net). If you are interested in any of the presentations from the summit, they will be posted on the website, <http://gender-summit.com/> or contact us.

Take the gender career bias test by visiting the role model page of our website and let us know how you scored!

African NS Science Retreat, Oct 2/2013



MSVU Open Campus Day, Nov 1, 2013



Negotiation Workshop, Oct 11, 2013



3rd Gender Summit, Washington DC, Nov 13-15, 2013



Dr. Tamara Franz-Odendaal - Nova Scotia Science, Technology and Innovation Champion

Dr. Franz-Odendaal was among a stellar line-up of professionals who were recognized at this year's 11th Annual Discovery Awards for Science and Technology for outstanding achievement in the category of Science Champion.

The Awards were handed out on November 21st 2013 at the Halifax Marriott Harbour Front Hotel at a gala event attended by the scientific, corporate and academic elite of Nova Scotia.

It was a wonderful night where the scientific community came together to celebrate Nova Scotians who are at the forefront of science, technology and innovation. Dr. Franz-Odendaal shared the spotlight with other colleagues who are doing incredible work not just here in the province, but also nationally and internationally.



News from Across the Region

- ◆ NB Women in ICT (NBWICT) received funding from the Regional Development Corporation, New Brunswick, to run the WinSETT workshop for **Managers: Towards an Inclusive Workplace**. Date to be determined. If you want to get involved, find out more, or know of organisations who might want to attend the workshop, contact Darcy Grant, Darcy.Grant@ambirsolutions.com
- ◆ A **new role model video** was filmed at Joggins, Nova Scotia on October 22nd 2013 with Dr. Melissa Gray, Curator of Paleontology at the Joggins Fossil Center. The video will be online in early January. Check the video page of our website.
- ◆ **Women in Technology in Nova Scotia** held a half-day workshop, organized by Nancy Flam and Nan Armour, on November 5th 2013. Read the report on our website.
- ◆ **Christine MacKinnon**, FEC, P.Eng., Director, Provincial Government, PEI participated in a panel for a career fair at Colonel Gray High School, PEI. CBC recorded an interview which aired on November 28th 2013.
- ◆ Dr. Franz-Odendaal was interviewed by Jennifer Grudic from FAX, an Eastlink TV Channel regarding **GoldieBlox**, a new toy for girls age 5-9 that challenges STEM stereotypes.
- ◆ **Cape Breton University Women in Science Retreat - Saturday, March 22nd 2014** at CBU campus starting at noon. The purpose is to show young women and girls the opportunities in the sciences and focus on professional jobs for women in science. For more information, visit www.cbu.ca
- ◆ **First Lego League Regional Finals** - WISEatlantic supported 6 youth (3 girls and 3 boys) in a new robotics team, Mount Mystic. They received the Rising Star Award at the regional qualifiers event in Halifax. Finals take place on February 15th 2014 at Acadia University.
- ◆ **Discovery Centre**, Halifax, NS is organizing a P.O.W.E.R. Camp for girls age 14-18 who are interested in engineering and STEM careers in early 2014. Visit www.discoverycentre.ns.ca for more information.

Visit the calendar of events on the WISEatlantic website for more events in your region.

**We would love to highlight other events in Atlantic Canada.
Please send us your information.**

Get Involved!

Atlantic Connections for Women in STEM Conference May 2015!

The conference will be held in Halifax in May 2015, with the goal to connect women in STEM across disciplines and career stages in Atlantic Canada. If you are interested in being part of the steering committee for this conference, please contact WISEatlantic.

We need **Role Models in Science, Technology and Engineering** to connect via webinar with classrooms in Winter, 2014. Email us.

NSERC Design Chairs - Call for Nominations

There are currently 16 NSERC Design Chairs in Engineering; **none are women!** Preliminary proposals are due April 8th 2014. Visit the NSERC website for more information.

Regional Connections Teleconference - we hold periodic calls with regional nodes to collaborate and share ideas. If you would like to join, let us know!

Recent Article of Interest - Gender Equality in Science

Dr's Tamara Franz-Ondendaal, Catherine Mavriplis and Annemieke Farenhorst, three of the five NSERC Chairs for Women in Science and Engineering, were interviewed for *International Innovation* on why women still lag behind men in numbers and rank within STEM careers. They provide insight into their individual programmes aimed at recruiting, retaining and helping women to succeed in STEM fields. Find the whole article, plus many more, on our website in the role models tab.

CCWESTT 2014 will be held in Regina from May 22 to 24th 2014.

The conference expects to attract over 400 participants. Attend the national discussion on how we can move from strategic planning to actively reaching, recruiting and retaining women in non-traditional occupations.

Partial funding is available for students and professionals from WISEatlantic. Visit our website.

Early bird registration deadline is **February 3rd 2014**. **Final registration is May 1st 2014**. Find out more at www.ccwestt.org.

Feedback

We value your comments on this newsletter and the activities of our WISEatlantic Team. Please contact us with your feedback and suggestions on how we can help you. If you no longer want to receive our newsletter, please email us with the subject "unsubscribe".

The program of activities for the NSERC Atlantic Chair for Women in Science and Engineering includes:

- Establishing a network for junior and senior high school girls to meet female role models working in science and engineering fields.
- Developing and launching webinars across Atlantic Canada for teachers, school guidance and students to broaden their knowledge of careers in science and engineering.
- Holding community seminars for parents, teachers and students.
- Conducting surveys to assess how girls perceive careers in science and engineering and how they make their career decisions.
- Launching science camps and retreats for girls.
- Developing role model videos as a resource for students, parents, and teachers.

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