



# Women in Science and Engineering Atlantic Region

Winter 2016 / Issue 12

The NSERC Atlantic Chair's program for Women in Science and Engineering, WISEatlantic, 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 from industry and academia, from science, engineering and technology disciplines at various stages in their careers.

## WISEatlantic Upcoming Events

### 5th Annual Girls Get WISE Science Retreat

Mark your calendars for **April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**, the Girls Get WISE Science Retreat is back and promises to be another fantastic event! Girls in grades 7-12 are invited to participate in this hands-on science event and also get a chance to chat with female role models in various STEM careers. The retreat will take place in the Rosaria Multi-Purpose Room, Rosaria Student Centre at Mount Saint Vincent University from 10:15AM to 3:30PM.

**Registration will open on the WISEatlantic.ca website on March 1<sup>st</sup> and space is limited.** We can't wait to see you there!



Girls extract DNA at our 2015 Girls Get WISE Science Retreat

## In the Pipeline...

- May 3-6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - National **CCWESTT Conference** will take place in Ottawa, ON.
- **Girls Get WISE Science Summer Camp** for girls going into grades 7 & 8. Date TBD. Space is limited, be sure to check our website, [www.WISEatlantic.ca](http://www.WISEatlantic.ca), for updates on registration.
- Our research team is hard at work interpreting the data from phase two of our research survey, *'Career Choices and Influencers in STEM'*. Be sure to follow us on social media to get the latest info on this study.

## The 10 Common Myths Girls have about STEM and How to Bust Them

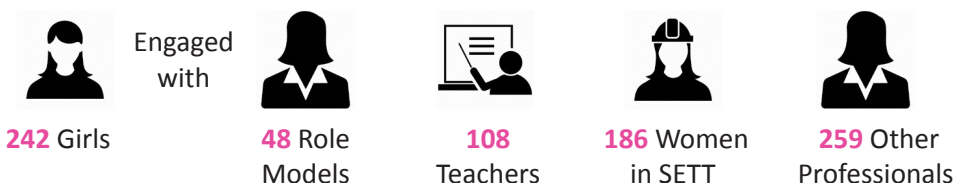


WISEatlantic will discuss the common myths girls have about STEM, tips on how to bust them and strategies that can be used to guide girls into STEM subjects and careers at Halifax Public Libraries. Open to parents, teachers, and girls in grades 9-12. Light refreshments will be provided.

- Session 1 - Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> - Central Library at 7:00PM
- Session 2 - Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> - Keshen Goodman Library at 7:00PM

## 2015 at a glance

### Direct Engagement



*"From this [ACT Conference] experience, I have gained a fresh perspective and renewed confidence in myself, both personally and professionally"* - Atlantic Connections Conference participant

## WISEatlantic Past Events



Participants networking at the Twitter Basics event

### Twitter Basics and Networking Event

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015, thirty women studying or working in various STEM fields came together at the Mount to network and to learn the basics of Twitter. Dr. Tamara Franz-Odendaal, Chair of WISEatlantic opened the event by discussing how Twitter can be useful to women in STEM to get their voices heard about their research and to address STEM stereotypes and gender inequality. Special thanks to Lorraine Mockford, NSCC, for leading the Twitter session.

### WISEatlantic Presents to Guidance Counsellors, Science Teachers, and Science Atlantic Board



Tamara at the WISEatlantic booth at the AST Conference

October and November proved to be a busy two months for WISEatlantic! On October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Tamara and Sally presented to Nova Scotia guidance counsellors and teachers respectively on 'Why girls should be encouraged to pursue STEM and how to cultivate interest'. We also had a booth at the Association of Science Teachers Conference where we shared resources, including our FREE poster for teachers, and lesson plans that incorporate the use of the Women in Action video series on our website. These materials can be found at [WISEatlantic.ca/teachers.asp](http://WISEatlantic.ca/teachers.asp).

In November, Tamara gave a presentation at the Science Atlantic annual general meeting, discussing the current reality of women in STEM, with a focus on women in academics. Science Atlantic and WISEatlantic will co-sponsor a new speaker series featuring talks by female academics in various Science disciplines; this series will start in Sept. 2016.

### Webinar Series

This fall, WISEatlantic offered two online webinars; the first one took place on October 29<sup>th</sup>, and discussed the *10 myths about girls and STEM and how we can bust them*. The second webinar was held on November 19<sup>th</sup>, and offered *Practical advice for parents on guiding their daughters in STEM subjects and careers*. Thanks goes out to all those who participated! Links to the recordings of these webinars will be available on our website soon. Have any content ideas for future webinars? Feel free to pass them along to Sally at [WISEatlantic@msvu.ca](mailto:WISEatlantic@msvu.ca)!



## New Role Model Video!



It was a great experience spending the day with Alicia Oickle, a chemist who works in developing greener methods for mining techniques. Be sure to head-on over to our video page, [WISEatlantic.ca/videos.asp](http://WISEatlantic.ca/videos.asp) to watch her video! Thanks Alicia for letting us spend the day with you!

**Teachers**, email us for our Breaking Stereotypes in STEM lesson plans that utilize the Women in Action videos.

Interested in participating in a role model video? Please contact us!

## New WinSETT Centre Leadership Network

In July/August 2015 the WinSETT Centre launched the Women in SETT Leadership Network, which is a private online community for women in Science, Engineering, Trades or Technology to come together and share events, stories, and information. Since the launch, over 270 women from all across Canada have joined as members. Interested in staying up-to-date on events for Women in SETT, and to share information and stories with other women? You can join the network anytime by visiting [womeninsett.ning.com](http://womeninsett.ning.com)

## First Lego League Teams Sponsored by WISEatlantic

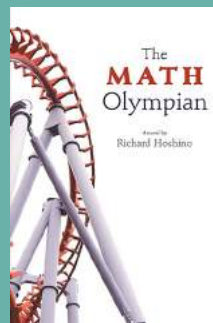
Every year WISEatlantic supports FLL teams that are at least 50% female. This year we have had an unprecedented amount of applications from groups, which is very encouraging. We are pleased to sponsor five teams for the 2015/2016 year!

The FLL qualifiers were held at various NSCC campus locations from November 21<sup>st</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to two WISEatlantic sponsored teams, Sisters of Science who won the Core Values and Best Decorated Pit Area awards, and the Shambhala Shadowvolts for taking home the Champions award. The BotBesties team reached all their goals at the qualifiers as well. Our two other sponsored teams compete at Robofest, the High School Robotics competition at Acadia. Both the FLL Championships and Robofest will take place February 13<sup>th</sup>, good luck to all the teams!



*Sisters of Science Team at the qualifiers*

## WISEatlantic Chair Reading Picks Grab a cozy blanket and a coffee...

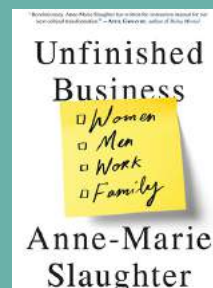


**The Math Olympian**  
By: Richard Hoshino

Follow Bethany, a small town Nova Scotian girl, as she overcomes many challenges on her road to success at the International Math Olympiad

**Unfinished Business**  
By: Anne-Marie Slaughter

“A powerful, persuasive, thought-provoking vision for how to finish the long struggle for equality between men and women, work and family”



# WinSETT Leadership Workshops - Professional Development

The WinSETT Centre is currently running their full Leadership Series of professional development workshops for women in Science, Engineering, Trades and Technology at the Mount in Halifax with support from WISEatlantic, Emera Newfoundland & Labrador, and Engineers Canada. The two first workshops in the series, *Becoming Leaders* and *Effective Communications*, were successfully held in October and November respectively, with 29 women participating and Donna Clark as the facilitator. Three sessions still remain: *Negotiating for Success* (January 15<sup>th</sup>), and for the first time in the Atlantic region, *Navigating Politics at Work* (February 19<sup>th</sup>), and *Networks, Mentors & Sponsors* (March 11<sup>th</sup>). Registration is open for all three remaining workshops at <https://WinSETTLeadershipWorkshops.Eventbrite.ca> In addition to the Halifax series of workshops, WISEatlantic is co-funding the delivery of the *Effective Communication* workshop at both the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus and at the University of New Brunswick - Fredericton campus, in Feb. Thank you to the Deans at both universities and NSERC CWSE network for support.



*Becoming Leaders workshop, Oct., 2015 - Halifax*

## News from Across the Region

### Nova Scotia

**January 8-10<sup>th</sup>, 2016**- The **Canadian Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics** will take place at Dalhousie University. Find out more: <http://fizz.phys.dal.ca/~ccuwip/?p=home>

**February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016** - **First Lego League Championships** will be held at Acadia University. Good luck to all our sponsored teams!

**April 7-8<sup>th</sup>, 2016** - Techsploration will be holding their first **Techsplorer event** of the year at the NSCC Strait Area Campus. The Techsplorer events bring together young women from across the province with their teachers, role models and invited guests to participate in exciting, interactive presentations and workshops. [www.techsploration.ca](http://www.techsploration.ca)

**Winter/Spring** - WISEatlantic sponsors **Girls Get WISE Science Retreats** in Wolfville, Charlottetown, and Truro. Check [WISEatlantic.ca](http://WISEatlantic.ca) for dates and registration information as it becomes available.

### National

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2016** - the Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology (CCWESTT) will hold its 16th biennial conference in Ottawa at the Shaw Centre. This year's themes are inspired by 'Seizing Canada's Moment: Moving Forward in Science, Technology and Innovation'. The call for abstracts, posters and sessions is now out and will be accepted until January 30, 2016, visit <http://brocku.ca/unesco-chair/ccwestt-2016-conference-conf-r> for more information.

**NSERC** recently released their **strategic plan** for the next five years. Highlights from the plan include: fostering a science and engineering culture in Canada, launching the new generation of early-career researchers, and building a diversified and competitive research base. To view the full strategic plan visit [www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

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#### Stay Connected:

For resources, videos, and info about upcoming events: [www.WISEatlantic.ca](http://www.WISEatlantic.ca)



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