



Women in Science and Engineering Atlantic Region Newsletter



Fall 2013/Issue 5

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 from industry and academia, from science, engineering and technology disciplines at various stages in their careers.

WISE Atlantic Upcoming Events

Science Retreat for African Nova Scotian Youth - Wednesday, October 2, 2013 from 9:30-2:15 pm at MSVU. Engaging Senior High School Students with an interest in STEM subjects.

Professional Development Workshop—Negotiating for Success, Friday, October 11, 2013 – MSVU - 8:00 am-4:30 pm Registration opens September 5th. Limited to 20 participants. In partnership with the WinSETT Centre and Digital Nova Scotia.

School Counselors Symposium, Thursday, October 24, 2013 - MSVU
WISE Atlantic is engaging Junior and High School Girls via live webinar with role models.

Association of Science Teachers Conference, October 25, 2013
Halifax West High School - Come visit our booth at the conference and hear about our Careers in STEM Research Study.

Workshop for Science Faculty and Students at Acadia University
September 17, 2013

Enhancing Diversity in an Innovative Workplace— 63rd Canadian Chemical Engineering Conference, Fredericton, NB—October 22, 2013. Workshop is open to all.

CCWESTT 2014 will be held in Regina from **May 22 to 24, 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. Find out more at www.ccwestt.org. Abstract deadline is **October 1, 2013** and early bird registration deadline is February 3, 2014.

3rd Gender Summit-North America: Diversity Fueling Excellence in Research and Innovation. **November 13 - 15, 2013**, Washington D.C. For more information, visit www.gendersummit.com



Teachers - Ask about our 2014 Webinars:

January - Technology

February – Math

March – Engineering

*"Speak to Role Models using Online
Collaborate Software"*

Our Sponsors:



WISE Atlantic Past Events

Girls Get WISE Science Retreat - June 1, 2013

Forty-seven girls spent a day at Mount Saint Vincent University doing hands-on activities such as playing with chemistry and programming robots. They also spent time with six professional women talking about their careers and why they enjoy their jobs. Educational booths were set up by the Discovery Centre, Museum of Natural History, Super Nova and the Mount Nutrition Department. Don't miss next Spring's Retreat scheduled for **May 10, 2014**.

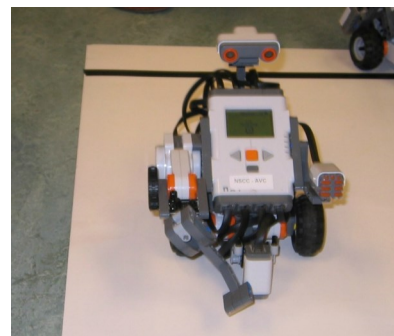
Girls Get WISE Science Summer Camp - August 12-16, 2013

Local junior high schools students participated in hands on training while exploring careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

The camp's 24 attendees did hands-on activities including studying the development of zebra fish, extracting DNA from fruit, analyzing hair samples, and overcoming engineering challenges with limited materials. On the last day, participants shared their experiences and accomplishments with parents and siblings at an open house.



Thanks to all those who volunteered to make the Science Camp a huge success!

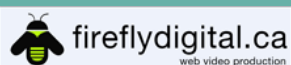


The State of Canada's Science Culture

Dr. Tamara Franz-Odenaal currently serves as a member of the Canadian Council of Academies Expert Panel on "The State of Canada's Science Culture". For more information on this expert panel and more details on the sub-questions that will be addressed, please visit <http://www.scienceadvice.ca/en/assessments/>. The report will be out in winter 2014.



THANK YOU



TECHSPLOATION

nscc



Girl Guides of Canada
Guides du Canada



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Get Involved!

Atlantic Connections for Women in STEM Conference in 2015!

The goal will be 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 as we need your help.

Role Models Needed to connect via webinar with classrooms - sign up online.

NSERC Design Chairs - Call for Nominations

There are currently 16 NSERC Design Chairs in Engineering; **None are Women!** Preliminary proposals are due April 8, 2014. The program information can be found http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/CFS-PCP/CDE-CGC_eng.asp Chairs in Design Engineering (CDEs) were established to improve the level and quality of design engineering within Canadian universities. NSERC encourages a multidisciplinary view of design engineering and encourages applications from all engineering disciplines.

News from Across the Region

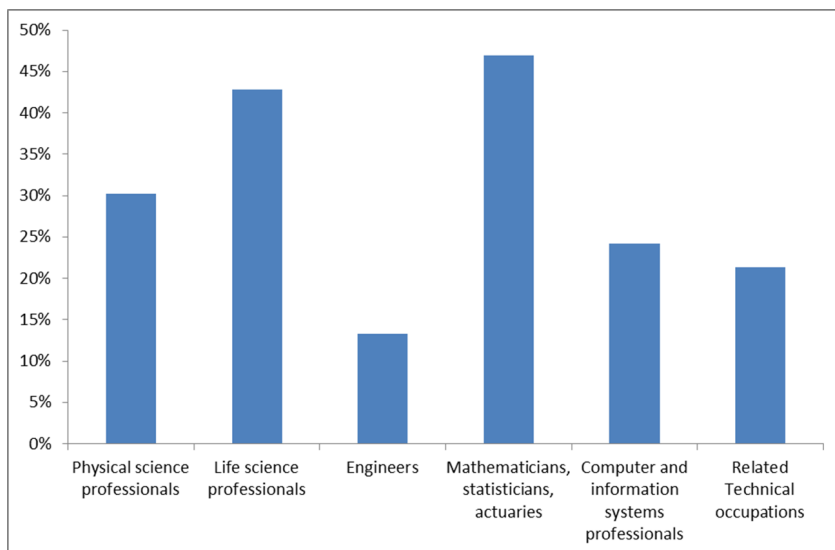
WISE Newfoundland and Labrador is celebrating 25 years of continuous contribution towards increasing the participation of women in science, technology, engineering and math careers. Visit <http://www.wisenl.ca/WISENL25/default.htm>. Join the celebration.

CyberGrlz —UNB offered a summer camp for girls in Grades 6-8. It was a hands-on learning experience that allowed them to explore the fun and exciting world of internet security through a variety of interactive activities.

Dalhousie University hosted a 2 week engineering summer camp for girls in Grade 12 in August, with university credits.

Canadian Science Policy Conference - November 22-23 Toronto <http://www.cspc2013.ca/>

48% of the Labour Work Force are Women!



Statistics Canada 2011 Results published in June 2013

Percentage of Women in:

Natural and Applied Sciences: 21.9% (see graph)

Trades and transport: 5.9%

Health: 80.3%

DOVE® Unstoppable Moms for Unstoppable Girls Contest Winner



Congratulations to Dr. Tamara Franz-Odendaal, the

NSERC Atlantic Chair for Women in Science and Engineering. She is one of four Canadian winners of the Dove® Unstoppable Moms for Unstoppable Girls Contest.

This contest celebrates mothers who do amazing things for girls every day. Dr. Franz-Odendaal's passion is to motivate girls to follow their dreams, be ambitious, and strive to be financially independent. Recipients of this award receive \$2,500 and another \$2,500 will be donated in her name to a charity sponsored by DOVE.®

Teabag Challenge



Girls Get WISE Science Camp participants collected over 100 used tea bags for Original Teabag Designs Inc. in Cape Town, South Africa.

Original T-Bag Designs makes 'Functional Art' out of recycled tea bags and provides a business for previously disadvantaged people in Cape Town, South Africa.

Used tea bags are dried, emptied, ironed then painted! Each artist has their own individual styles and patterns. These miniature works of art are then applied to stationary, wooden items like boxes, trays and coasters and even fabric items!

One cup of tea has provided the community, love, excitement and financial security.

To help out check out their website at <http://www.tbagdesigns.co.za/about/>.

WISE Atlantic is collecting used and emptied teabags until the end of September and can be dropped off at our office at MSVU.

for your ongoing support...

Update on our Research Study - the Choices of Girls & STEM Careers

The first phase of our Research Study survey has been completed and our report will be out in late Fall. Over 500 students from the Maritime Provinces participated in our survey about STEM careers.

The online survey focused predominantly on grade 7 students and explored what influences students' decisions about careers, what is important to them, what perceptions they have about STEM careers, whether these perceptions change throughout the educational process, and what their career decision plans are following high school graduation.

It is the intention to survey students over a period of five years (2012-2016) to better understand the decision-making process as they attempt to make career decisions. If you would like a copy of the report, please email us.

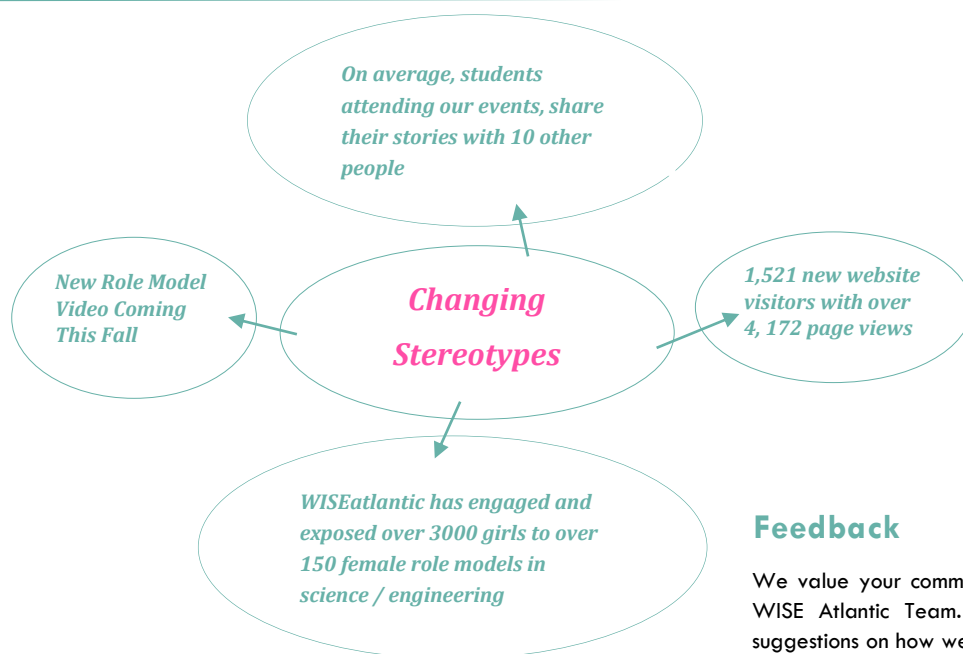
Dr. Franz-Odendaal is presenting our research findings on October 25, 2013 at the Association of Science Teachers Conference, Halifax West High School.

The MSVU Research team also included Dr. Fred French and Dr. Karen Blotnick. Thanks to Philip Joy for statistical analyses.

Thank you to all schools that participated.

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.



Feedback

We value your comments on this newsletter and the activities of our WISE Atlantic 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".

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