



As WISE Atlantic completes its first full-year in operation, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all of our sponsors and volunteers who enable us to inspire and engage youth, specifically young women, in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. We look forward to 2013 to further deliver and support innovative outreach, research, networking, and advocacy initiatives.

Girl Guides Pathfinder Science Retreat, November 17, 2012

Forty-two Pathfinders representing Guiding Units across Nova Scotia visited Mount Saint Vincent University and met female role models to learn firsthand about science and engineering. The girls took part in hands-on activities and learned about the value of teamwork, while meeting lots of women working in science and engineering fields. Thanks to all of the volunteers, Pathfinders, and over a dozen leaders and parents for taking part!

"I loved science before this retreat, so now I love it even more" *Gr. 7 Pathfinder event participant*
"I had never considered the field of nutritional studies, but it could be something I would want to experience." *Gr. 9 Pathfinder event participant*



Dr. Franz-Odendaal led a DNA extraction session; Dr. Seto led an egg-drop session; and various role models led round table mentoring sessions.

Watch Our New Role Model Video



A new career role model video featuring Dr. Jesse Benjamin, DVM (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine) has been recently added to the WISE Atlantic website. Simply click the student or teacher tab of WISEatlantic.ca.

Dr. Benjamin grew up in Petite Riviere, Nova Scotia. In 2007 she became the first Mi'kmaq student to graduate with a DVM from the Atlantic Veterinary College, UPEI. She currently resides in Sackville with her husband and 4 children, 3 cats and 2 dogs. Dr. Benjamin's living her dream job every day at Sackville Animal Hospital in Nova Scotia.

Province of Nova Scotia Supports Robotics

The Honourable Marilyn More, Minister of Labour and Advanced Education, announced on Nov. 26th, that the Provincial Government has provided \$250,000 to Acadia University to be used over five years to expand the Robot Programming Competitions in Nova Scotia.

Go to [First Robotics Canada](http://FirstRoboticsCanada) to watch videos and learn more.

For more information go to [WISE Atlantic's website](http://WISEatlantic.ca), or contact us for details.

Inside This Issue:

- 1 · Girl Guides Pathfinder Science Camp · New Role Model Video · Funding for Robotics
- 2 · Supporting Youth
- 3 · Supporting Professionals
- 4 · Making Connections: Facebook · Research



WISE Atlantic Supporting Youth in Robotics

Congratulations to the Polka Bots

WISE Atlantic's sponsored Team, the Polka Bots, advanced from the regional level of the First Lego League robotics competition, held Nov. 24th at NSCC, to the provincial competition. The Polka Bots (pictured from left to right, Vanessa, Megan, Sophie and Hannah) also earned recognition in the Project Presentation category.



Good luck to the Auburn Eagles

WISE Atlantic supports a team of six students from Auburn High School through the loan of a Mindstorm robotic educational kit. Good luck to the team, Auburn Eagles, who will also be competing in the Provincial Competition at Acadia University on February 2nd.

"Learn more about the FLL program by attending and watching the provincial competition which will be held at Acadia University on February 2, 2013."

WISE Atlantic Science Engages Youth...

In The Classroom - Dr. Franz-Odendaal gave science demonstrations to over 200 students at Highland Park and Herring Cover Junior High Schools during October and November.

Community Sessions - WISE Atlantic volunteer role models presented STEM careers to approximately 30 teens at Woodlawn Public Library on November 29th.

AHHRI aboriginal conference - Over 70 aboriginal youth in grades 11 and 12 visited MSVU and took part in an interactive science session led by Dr. Franz-Odendaal.

Black Educators' Association Career Jam 2K12 - Over 140 Grades 9, 10, and 11 students from the African Nova Scotian community across the province, met at Avonview High School on Nov. 10th to gain knowledge of career options.

Were These Sessions Useful? Feedback from Youth...

In The Classroom...

100% - Yes—Citadel High School

100% - Yes—Sacred Heart School

At Woodlawn Library...

96% - Yes; 4% - No

AHHRI aboriginal conference - 58% indicated that Science was the most memorable table of the day.

Black Educators' Association Career Jam 2K12

Students were very engaged! We connected a student to tutoring offered by Imhotep Legacy Academy, who have tutoring services in physics, calculus, chemistry, and biology for African Nova Scotian students in grades 9-12.

WISE Atlantic Upcoming Dates for Youth

January 2013 - WISE Atlantic is partnering to host a Girls' IT League at selected schools across HRM to encourage young women to develop an interest in computers and Information Technology.

June 1, 2013 - Our Spring Science Retreat day is set for June 1st 2013. Registration opens on April 15th.

Summer 2013 - WISE Atlantic will host another Summer Science Camp, with registration opening on May 1st.

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

THANK YOU



Women in Science and Engineering Atlantic Region Newsletter

THANK YOU to our Role Models

Thank you to the more than 75 role models who have offered their time and professional expertise to engage and assist with WISE Atlantic Events. Here are just a few of the many pictured on the right (from top to bottom) Teresa Hunkeler (Eastlink) with Dr. Franz-Odendaal (WISE Atlantic Chair); Carolyn Chang (Graduate Student, Saint Mary's University); Lisa Kanary (Bedford Institute of Oceanography); Megan Dufton, (Graduate Student, Dalhousie University); and Dr. Seto (Defence Scientist, Defence Research and Development Canada).

Please let us know if you are involved in groups working to support women in science, engineering or technology in Atlantic Canada. We would like to connect women in these fields. Sign up on our role model database and let us know how we can help you.

WISE Atlantic Engages Professionals

October 26th – Dr. Franz-Odendaal presented a session on integrating hands on activities in the classroom including the use of Zebrafish in the classroom at the Nova Scotia Association of Science Teachers Provincial Conference.

October 25th - Dr. Franz-Odendaal presented "Promoting Science, Engineering, Trades and Technology (SETT) to Junior and High School Girls" to school counsellors. (MSVU Conference)

October 18th – WISE Atlantic co-sponsored Dr. Evelyn Fox Keller to visit MSVU for a discussion on gender and science.

October 13-14th – Dr. Franz-Odendaal presented at the first Atlantic Canadian Celebration of Women in Computing (ACCWIC 2012) in Amherst, Nova Scotia.

October 4th – Dr. Franz-Odendaal presented at Research Remixed, at MSVU, to showcase the research and activities of WISE Atlantic.

October 1st – Dr. Franz-Odendaal presented a talk "GIRLS and Science: why it's important and how you can support them" as part of the NSIS lecture series. She was interviewed on CBC Mainstreet about being a woman in science in conjunction with this event.

Recent Articles of Interest

Visit the WISE Atlantic website Role Model page to download copies of:

- CCWESTT Policy Forum Summary Document and CCWESTT Conference Report 2012.
- Council of Canadian Academies - Report of the Expert Panel on Women in University Research. Full report or Executive Summary.
- NSERC 2010 Gender report – for women in academia.
- *Leading the next generation of female scientists*, Herald Magazine December 2, 2012. An article written by Dr. Franz-Odendaal.

for your ongoing support...

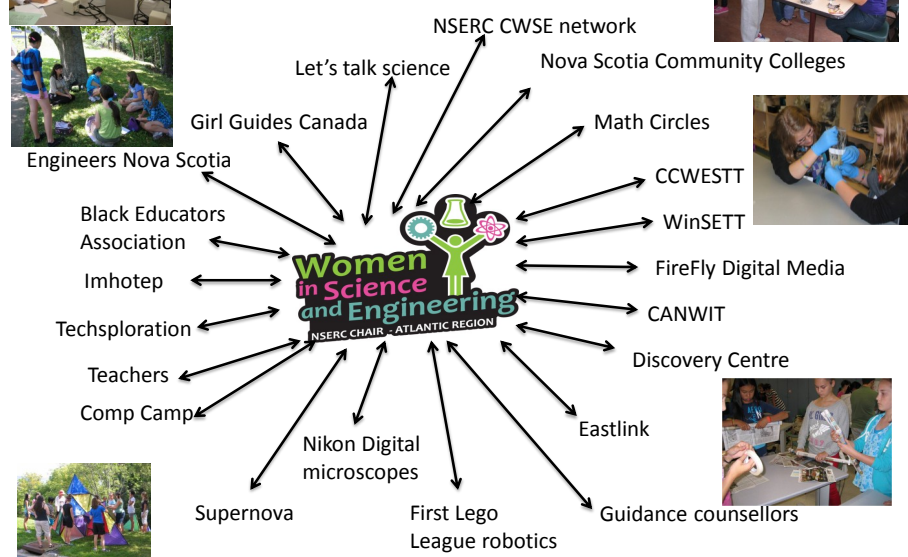


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MAKING CONNECTIONS...



www.facebook.com/WISEatlantic

Website Visits

Our website has welcomed approximately 2,400 unique visitors during 2012.

Upcoming Career Survey

WISE Atlantic's research study investigating the choices students make regarding science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects will begin in early 2013 in selected schools across the four Atlantic Provinces.

Statistics for Engaging Students in 2012

	Science Retreats	Science Summer Camp	Library Career Panels	Webinars	Role Model Videos Created	School Visits by the Atlantic Chair
Number Held	3	1	5	5	2	10
Role Model #'s	22	10	21	24	2	6
Participant #'s	141	19	64	95	5	500+

All role models are women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers.

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